

RETURN

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TO AN ADDRESS of the House of Commons, dated December 4, 1911, for a copy of all papers, letters, telegrams, memoranda or correspondence of any kind had between the Dominion Government and the Governments of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, or with the Government of Ontario, as to the settlement of the boundaries of said respective provinces; and also, of any agreement or memo. containing any terms of settlement of the questions relating to the boundaries of said provinces or any part thereof; and also, of any documents, letters or representations made to the Federal Government by any person or persons relative to the said settlement or the questions involved therein.

W. J. ROCHE,
Secretary of State.

OTTAWA, January 12, 1912.

P.C. 573.

CERTIFIED copy of a Report of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on March 17, 1911.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated March 16, 1911, from a Sub-Committee of Council, consisting of the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Ministers of Finance and Interior, representing that they have had under consideration the resolutions of the House of Commons passed on the thirteenth day of July, 1908 (Votes and Proceedings, 1908, pp. 1348-1349), in so far as such resolutions relate to the proposed extension of the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba, and submitting certain recommendations in connection therewith.

The recital and the first two of these resolutions are in the words following:—

‘Whereas petitions have been presented to the Government and to this House from the legislative assembly of Manitoba, praying for an extension of the boundaries of the said province northward and eastward, and for an additional subsidy to the said province in lieu of the ownership of public lands in the territory to be so added;

‘Be it resolved,—

‘That it is expedient that the prayer of the said petition should be acceded to, and that upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed to by the said legislative assembly and by parliament, the boundaries of Manitoba be extended as follows:—

‘The northern boundary to be the sixtieth parallel of latitude; the western boundary to be the present eastern boundary line of the province of Saskatchewan to the said sixtieth parallel; the eastern boundary to be the present eastern boundary as far north as the northeast corner of the province; thence on a straight line to the most eastern point of Island lake, and thence on a straight line to the point where the eighty-ninth meridian of west longitude intersects the shore line of Hudson bay.

‘And be it further resolved,—

‘That whereas notwithstanding the extension of territory above described, the ungranted lands of the Crown in the territory so to be added to the said province will still continue to be administered by the Government of Canada for the purposes of the Dominion; and the said province will not have the public land as a source of revenue.

‘It is just and equitable to recognize the increased cost of civil government which such extension of territory will occasion to the province, and in view of the premises, to make the said province an increased allowance by money payment, the amount of which should be the subject of negotiations between the government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba.’

Section 3 of Chapter 27 of the Acts of the Imperial Parliament—‘The British North America Act, 1871,’ is the statutory basis for these resolutions. Section 3 is as follows:—

‘The Parliament of Canada may from time to time, with the consent of the legislature of any province of the Dominion, increase, diminish or otherwise alter the limits of such province, upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed to by said legislature and may, with the like consent, make provisions respecting the effect and operation of any such increase or diminution or alteration of territory in relation to any province affected thereby.’

A conference was held at Ottawa on the 2nd and 3rd days of February, 1911, between representatives of the Government of Canada and of the Government of Manitoba, at which the negotiation contemplated by the resolutions was entered upon but no conclusion was reached, the representatives of the Government of Canada, at the close of the conference, undertaking to communicate at an early date to the representatives of the province what would be, in the opinion of the Government of Canada, just and reasonable terms and conditions in the premises.

The representatives of the province were unwilling to limit the discussion in these negotiations to the matter of increased subsidy due to the proposed increase of territory. They asked, as a necessary part of the negotiation contemplated by the resolutions, for a re-opening of the whole question of the financial relations of the province to the Dominion except upon two matters,—the subsidy payable to the province for the support of its government and legislature, and the 80 cents per head payable in respect of population, under the British North America Act, 1907. The Honourable Mr. Rogers, one of Manitoba’s representatives, in support of this proposition said, ‘where a province has an increase of territory it brings up a readjustment of the financial conditions.’

The language of section 3 of the British North America Act, 1871, already quoted, does not, it is submitted, warrant the conclusion that a ‘re-adjustment’ of existing financial relations, as now contended for by the representatives of the province, is intended by that section to be made under its provisions. What is intended by the section is that the terms and conditions upon which the province will undertake the burden of the administration and government of, in this case, added territory, shall be a matter for agreement between the province and the Dominion before the territory is added to the province. In other words, the additional expense to which the province will be put in the discharge of the obligations placed upon the province under the constitution by the addition of the new territory, not the terms and conditions under which the province now administers its existing territory, is to be the subject matter of negotiation under the section.

But the contention of the representatives of the province went even further than this, and upon the question being directly asked it was frankly admitted that if there had been no proposed extension of the boundaries of the province at all the province

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would now contend for a revision of the terms of its financial relations to the Dominion in respect of, among other, two chief matters, namely,—

- (a) what may be conveniently described as allowance in lieu of public debt, and
- (b) allowance in lieu of public lands.

In view of the conclusion reached as to the proper scope and application of section 3 of the said Act, it is not deemed necessary to here enter into a full discussion of the financial relations of the Province of Manitoba to the Dominion as to these matters in arriving at the terms and conditions which the Government of Canada is willing to offer in respect of the proposed addition to the territory of the province. This much, however, may be said, after a careful review of the circumstances under which the legislation of 1885 (chapter 50 '*An Act for the final settlement of the claims made by the Province of Manitoba on the Dominion*'), which determined such financial relations, was enacted, and after an inquiry into the operation of that legislation down to the present, so far as the latter of these two chief matters—allowance in lieu of public lands—is concerned, and considering the probable financial result to the province of that legislation in the future, that there is, in the judgment of the sub-committee, if regard be had to the like allowance to the other provinces the public lands of which have been retained by the Dominion, no reasonable ground for complaint on the part of the Government of Manitoba.

So far as the former of these two chief matters—allowance in lieu of public debt—is concerned, attention may here be properly directed, without unduly enlarging the discussion, to the proceedings of the conference between representatives of the Government of Canada and of the several provinces which took place in October, 1906. The invitation of the Prime Minister to the several provincial premiers was 'for a conference with the Dominion Government to discuss the financial subsidies to the provinces.' It is of the highest significance in this connection that at the conference pursuant to this invitation, beyond the claim of British Columbia to special consideration and treatment, not as respecting debt allowance, but generally because of the geographical features and position of the province, no claim was made by the representatives of any of the provinces in regard to capital allowance in lieu of debt.

It is true that in the resolutions adopted by the representatives of the several provinces at the conference there is appended to the first affirmative statement, as part of the resolution, the following general reservation,—'. . . under reserve of the right of any province to submit to such Government, memoranda in writing concerning any claim it may have . . . to additional consideration or recognition.' This language was, it is now asserted by the representatives of Manitoba, added as a 'saving clause' to preserve the rights of Manitoba as respects the claim now under discussion, and other alleged claims of that province to increased payments from the Dominion.

The fact that no claim was made by the representatives of any of the other provinces in regard to capital allowance in lieu of debt clearly indicates that these representatives did not then consider capital allowance in lieu of debt to be an open question; and if not an open question so far as the other provinces were concerned it should be equally a closed question so far as Manitoba is concerned.

The reason for this is obvious.

Capital allowance in lieu of debt has been based, in the case of the original provinces, upon population on entering the union; in the case of British Columbia and Prince Edward Island upon population as ascertained at the first census after entering, and in the case of Alberta and Saskatchewan upon an estimated population, approximately near the actual, on entering the union. Manitoba, it is true, in 1885, by chapter 50 of the Acts of that year already referred to, was given special consideration, and a population was assigned to the province of 125,000 for the purpose of debt allowance calculation, when the census of the following year, 1886, showed the Province of Manitoba to have a population of 108,640.

It would therefore seem highly inexpedient that Manitoba, after having in 1885 (Cap. 50) appealed from the legislative readjustment of 1884 (Cap. 4), which readjustment was intended to place all the provinces then in the confederation on an equitable footing in this behalf—each one in relation to all the others, and having obtained by that appeal a very substantial additional allowance, should after the lapse of more than 25 years be again allowed an appeal therefrom for another increase, without any reference to or consultation with the other provinces which have relatively equal rights and interests. Such a proceeding would, it is submitted, further break down the principle of population at the time of entering the Union which has governed this matter, and would be calculated to provoke hostility and impair the harmony which it is so desirable should exist between the provinces and the federal authority.

Reverting to the main question for consideration, these boundaries, as proposed in the resolutions recited, are acceptable to the Government of the Province, and only the terms and conditions remain for negotiation and adjustment:

The proposed extension of boundaries would add 106,304,000 acres, approximately, to the existing land area of the province, making the total land area of the province approximately 147,152,880 acres. Of the acreage in the added area suitable for agriculture there is no reliable information available, inasmuch as no part of such territory has ever been fully explored and very little exploration work has ever been done in much the larger part of the remainder.

It is known that there is a clay belt in this territory, and that there are, from the reports of such explorations as have been made, some lands suitable for some forms of agriculture. Such land is, however, believed to be for agricultural purposes quite inferior, climatic considerations being taken into account, to the lands now settled in the existing province of Manitoba.

In considering what are fair and reasonable terms and conditions within the meaning of these latter words as used in section 3 of the Imperial Act already quoted, it is proper, it is submitted, that, on the one hand, regard be had, to the extent and character of the territory to be added, to the fact that the ungranted lands of the Crown in the territory so to be added will continue to be administered by the Government of Canada for the purposes of the Dominion and that the province will not have the public lands in such territory as a source of revenue; and on the other hand, that the obligations of the province incidental to administration and government and all other constitutional obligations should be taken into account.

Two general considerations must always be kept in mind in this connection, one, that land can have little value if it is not likely to attract population; the other, that the expense to which the province will be put by the possession of the territory will not be great unless population takes possession. At the present time with a limited population the direct expense to the Dominion, incurred in discharging the obligations which fall to the province should such territory be added, is a negligible amount, not exceeding a few thousand dollars per annum.

It then becomes a pertinent matter of inquiry as to what the prospects are that the land in this territory will be occupied, at least to some extent, within the near future. Within the confines of this territory railway construction has already been carried on. Rails have been laid to the Pas at or near the Saskatchewan River, a distance of 40 miles through the territory. A railway bridge across the Saskatchewan river at this point is now being constructed by the Government of the Dominion; a line of railway therefrom to a port on the shores of Hudson's Bay has been projected, and a portion thereof, one hundred miles and upwards beyond the Pas, has been definitely located. A branch of the Canadian Northern Railway skirts, if it does not actually enter, the territory along its southern confines for a distance of

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twenty or more miles. This railway development is the precursor of population, but if the population be scattered as is altogether likely, the expenses of administration and of laying out roads and building bridges in a sparsely settled country, and of assisting in providing such a population with educational facilities, are certain for many years to prove, numbers being considered, comparatively great to the province.

The administration of law over wide unsettled areas, through which prospectors and explorers are likely to pass and repass, is bound, whenever civil rights have to be determined, or crime tracked and punished, to prove costly.

It is difficult to forecast and much more difficult to establish any certain conclusions as to the cost relation between population and expense per head to the province in this territory. Every year with the increase of population the expense per head will decrease. Initial expense per head will prove greatest. The present population of the territory is not known, but there is not, it is believed, a permanent population much in excess of the number as ascertained by the census of 1901, when the total population, chiefly Indian, was found to be 3,731.

In consideration of all these matters, the sub-committee recommend that, as soon as the legislature of the Province of Manitoba shall have consented to the proposed increase of limits of the province, and shall have agreed to the terms and conditions thereof as hereinafter set out, steps be taken to procure legislation by Parliament to increase the limits of the Province of Manitoba so that the boundaries of the province will be as mentioned in the resolutions of the House of Commons hereinbefore recited in so far as the same are therein set out, and that the terms and conditions of such increase of limits be as follows:—

(a) That inasmuch as the said province will not have the public land, mines and minerals and royalties incident thereto, in the added territory as a source of revenue, there shall be paid by Canada to the province by half-yearly payments in advance, in addition to any payments or allowances otherwise payable by Canada to the province, an annual sum based upon the population of such added territory as ascertained by any census thereof taken under the provisions of the *Census and Statistics Act*, as follows:—

The sum payable until the population of such added territory reaches one hundred thousand, shall be two hundred thousand dollars;

thereafter until such population reaches one hundred and fifty thousand, the sum payable shall be two hundred and fifty thousand dollars;

and thereafter the sum payable shall be three hundred thousand dollars.

(b) That the grants payable under 'The British North America Act, 1907,' consequent upon the increased population of the Province of Manitoba as the result of the proposed territorial addition being made, be argmented in accordance with the provisions of that Act.

The Committee concurring in the foregoing recommendations submit the same for approval.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,

Clerk of the Privy Council.

P.C. 673.

COPY of a Resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, on Thursday, the Twenty-third day of March, A.D., 1911.

Whereas at the time of the passage of 'The British North America Act' it was clearly the spirit and intention of the framers thereof, that the several provinces coming under its provisions should be fairly and justly dealt with, and on the basis of equality in their respective relations with the Parliament and Government of Canada.

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And whereas it is a matter of record that notwithstanding the meaning and intent of the said Act, as aforesaid, the Province of Manitoba has not since its confederation with Canada received that fair treatment at the hands of the federal authorities to which it was and is entitled, and had reason to expect at the time of becoming a portion of the said Union;

And whereas this position has from time to time been so self evident and intensified that intermittent concessions of a financial character and otherwise, to a limited extent, have been made to the province by the federal authorities and that nevertheless the fact is still manifest that the relations of this province with the Dominion of Canada are most unsatisfactory, and that Manitoba occupies a position of gross inequality with the older provinces, either to the east or the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta to the west, creating an anomaly repugnant to British institutions, and opposed to all grounds of natural justice;

And whereas the province has endeavoured, but without satisfactory results, by constitutional means, for over thirty years, to procure substantial relief in the premises, and obtain an increase of its present circumscribed territorial limits, to the end that it might become, as the pioneer province of the west in size and extent worthy of its position as a province of the Dominion;

And whereas it appears by a minute of Council approved of by His Excellency in Council on the seventeenth day of March, 1911, that, after frequent urgings, a proposal is made by the federal authorities that the limits of the province be extended eastwards, and northwards, to the Hudson bay, to comprise an area of 106,304,000 acres, and that there shall be paid to the province annually in lieu of public lands, mines, minerals and royalties in the said territory, the sum of \$200,000 until the population thereof reaches 100,000; the sum of \$250,000 until the said population reaches 150,000 and thereafter the sum of \$300,000;

And whereas it is the opinion of this House, after due and careful deliberation that the said approval does not recognize the principle of equality as aforesaid:

Therefore be it resolved—That this House firmly but most respectfully declines to accept the proposed addition of territory upon the terms offered in the minute of Council of His Excellency in Council as hereinbefore set forth, and reiterates and reaffirms the request of the province as a constituent portion of the confederation of Canada, for equality of treatment with either the Province of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, or the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, that is to say:—

(a) The control of all public lands, mines and minerals in the said proposed added territory, or

(b) Financial and other considerations of a character similar to those given or to be given the said provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Either of which propositions this Legislature is willing to favourably consider.

I, ARMAND HENRY CORELLI, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba on Thursday, the twenty-third day of March, A.D. 1911.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of March, A.D. 1911.

(Sgd.)

A. H. CORELLI,
Clerk of the House.

[SEAL.]

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 110a

(P.C. 738.)

(707)

OTTAWA, April 4, 1911.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 1st instant, transmitting certified copy of Order in Council, No. 16856, and a certified copy of a resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in regard to the proposed extension of the boundaries of your province.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) THOMAS MULVEY,
Under Secretary of State.

HIS HONOUR,
The Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba,
Winnipeg, Man.

Approved and ordered, March 29, 1911.

(Signed) D. H. McMILLAN,
Lieutenant-Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
WINNIPEG, April 1, 1911.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for the information of His Excellency the Governor General of Canada in Council, certified copy of Order in Council No. 16856, and a certified copy of a resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, relating to the proposed extension of the Boundaries of the Province of Manitoba, and in reply to a report of the Committee of the Privy Council of Canada, bearing date the 17th day of March, 1911.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) D. H. McMILLAN,
Lieutenant-Governor.

THE HONOURABLE,
The Secretary of State,
Ottawa, Ont.

REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON MATTERS
REFERRED TO THEIR CONSIDERATION.

To His Honour

The Honourable Sir DANIEL HUNTER McMILLAN, K.C.M.G.,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Manitoba.

PRESENT:

The Honourable Mr. ROBLIN (in the chair),
Mr. CAMPBELL,
Mr. ROGERS,
Mr. HOWDEN,
Mr. CALDWELL,
Mr. ARMSTRONG.

ON MATTERS OF STATE.

May it please your Honour:

The Honourable the President of the Council submits to Council a report setting forth:

Whereas the said Minister has had under consideration a report of the Committee of the Privy Council approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 17th day of March instant, respecting an extension of the boundaries of the province.

On the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister,

Committee advise,

That, as a reply thereto, the resolution unanimously adopted by the Legislature of Manitoba at the recent session as follows—

Whereas at the time of the passage of The British North America Act it was clearly the spirit and intention of the framers thereof, that the several provinces coming under its provisions should be fairly and justly dealt with, and on the basis of equality in their respective relations with the Parliament and Government of Canada;

And whereas it is a matter of record that notwithstanding the meaning and intent of the said Act, as aforesaid, the Province of Manitoba has not since its confederation with Canada received that fair treatment at the hands of the federal authorities to which it was and is entitled, and had reason to expect at the time of becoming a portion of the said Union;

And whereas this position has from time to time been so self evident and intensified that intermittent concessions of a financial character and otherwise, to a limited extent, have been made to the province by the federal authorities and that nevertheless the fact is still manifest that the relations of this province with the Dominion of Canada are most unsatisfactory, and that Manitoba occupies a position of gross inequality with the older provinces, either to the east or the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta to the west, creating an anomaly repugnant to British institutions, and opposed to all grounds of natural justice;

And whereas the province has endeavoured, but without satisfactory results, by constitutional means, for over thirty years, to procure substantial relief in the premises, and obtain an increase of its present circumscribed territorial limits, to the end

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that it might become, as the pioneer province of the west in size and extent worthy of its position as a province of the Dominion;

And whereas it appears by a minute of Council approved of by His Excellency in Council on the seventeenth day of March, 1911, that, after frequent urgings, a proposal is made by the federal authorities that the limits of the province be extended eastwards, and northwards, to the Hudson bay, to comprise an area of 106,304,000 acres, and that there shall be paid to the province annually in lieu of public lands, mines and minerals and royalties in the said territory, the sum of \$200,000 until the population thereof reaches 100,000; the sum of \$250,000 until the said population reaches 150,000 and thereafter the sum of \$300,000;

And whereas it is the opinion of this House, after due and careful deliberation, that the said proposal does not recognize the principle of equality as aforesaid:

Therefore be it resolved,—That this House firmly but most respectfully declines to accept the proposed addition of territory upon the terms offered in the minute of Council of His Excellency in Council, as hereinbefore set forth, and reiterates and re-affirms the request of the province as a constituent portion of the confederation of Canada, for equality of treatment with either the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, or the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, that is to say:—

(a) The control of all public lands, mines and minerals in the said proposed added territory, or

(b) Financial and other considerations of a character similar to those given or to be given the said Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Either of which propositions this legislature is willing to favourably consider: be approved.

That a copy of this Order in Council be transmitted to the Honourable the Secretary of State for Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) R. P. ROBLIN,
Chairman.

Executive Council Chamber,
March 29, 1911.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of Order in Council, No. 16856, approved on the twenty-ninth day of March, 1911.

(Sgd.) M. MACLEAN,
Clerk of the Executive Council of Manitoba.

CERTIFIED copy of a minute of the Executive Council of Saskatchewan, dated at Regina on Thursday, the thirteenth day of April, 1911, and approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Executive Council has had under consideration a report from the acting President of Council, dated March 28, 1911, stating that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan during its recent session just closed unanimously resolved that:

‘Whereas the Government of Canada has under consideration the advisability of extending the boundaries of the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba so as to include the hinterland lying adjacent to and north of these provinces;

‘And whereas the several areas proposed to be included in the said provinces are at present the property of Canada and any action by the Parliament of Can-

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ada to transfer the ownership of the property to the provinces referred to will have the effect of altering the terms and conditions upon which such provinces entered Confederation;

‘And whereas the extension of the boundaries of the said provinces northward will bring within their respective borders areas very similar to the territory comprising the northern part of the province of Saskatchewan;

‘And whereas under the terms of the Saskatchewan Act, the Alberta Act and the Manitoba Act the compensation payable to the provinces in lieu of lands is based upon the principle that the Federal Government should retain control of the agricultural lands of Western Canada for colonization and immigration purposes;

‘And whereas the said northern part of the province of Saskatchewan is not required by the Government of Canada for the purpose of carrying out its colonisation and immigration policy;

‘And whereas in addition to the agricultural lands there are certain natural resources within Saskatchewan which are purely of local concern and which are not required by the federal authorities for the carrying out of its colonisation policy:

‘Therefore be it resolved that in the opinion of this House the Government of Saskatchewan should proceed with negotiations with the federal authorities for the purpose of having transferred to the province all that part of the hinterland of Saskatchewan, together with all natural resources of purely local concern contained within the province, not required for colonisation and immigration purposes.’

In view of the opinion expressed by the Legislative Assembly as set out in the foregoing citation, and on the recommendation of the acting President of Council, the Executive Council advises that the Government of Canada may be moved to appoint a time and place when and where representations may be made by the Government of Saskatchewan on behalf of the Legislative Assembly respecting the subject dealt with in part in the above resolution.

(Sgd.)

J. W. McLEOD,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

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CLAIMS OF THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA AGAINST THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS AT CONFERENCE HELD AT
OTTAWA, FEBRUARY 2-3, 1911.

PRESENT:

*For the Dominion of Canada:*RT. HON. SIR WILFRID LAURIER,
HON. W. S. FIELDING.*For the Province of Manitoba:*HON. R. P. ROBLIN,
HON. R. ROGERS.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, HOUSE OF COMMONS,

THURSDAY, February 2, 1911.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—We will try to agree—see if we can agree upon a common basis in respect of the resolution of July 13, 1908.

Mr. ROGERS.—The resolution of the Dominion House?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—The Parliament agreed to offer you an extension of the limits of your province in the following terms:—

‘The northern boundary to be the sixtieth parallel of latitude; the western boundary to be the present eastern boundary line of the province of Saskatchewan to the said sixtieth parallel; the eastern boundary to be the present eastern boundary as far north as the north-east corner of the province, thence on a straight line to the most eastern point of Island Lake, and thence on a straight line to the point where the eighty-ninth meridian of west longitude intersects the shore line of Hudson Bay.

‘And be it further resolved:

‘That whereas notwithstanding the extension of territory above described, the ungranted lands of the Crown in the territory so to be added to the said province will still continue to be administered by the Government of Canada for the purposes of the Dominion; and the said province will not have the public land as a source of revenue.

‘It is just and equitable to recognize the increased cost of civil government which such an extension of territory will occasion to the province, and in view of the premises, to make to the said province an increased allowance by money payment, the amount of which should be the subject of negotiation between the Government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba.’

Now do we understand that we are prepared to discuss these terms?

Mr. ROBLIN.—Yes; that is what we are here for.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Then may I ask you what you offer or suggest as to how much should be the amount of the allowance?

Mr. ROBLIN.—We want the same consideration as was given to Alberta and Saskatchewan—equality with the sister prairie provinces.

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Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—That is to say, you want an increased subsidy; you want not an allowance to carry on the civil government in the new territory which would be added to Manitoba, but you want also an allowance, an increased allowance for the whole Province of Manitoba?

Mr. ROBLIN.—Yes; we want exactly the same as Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Mr. FIELDING.—In other words, apart from the question of boundaries and of any consequent allowance arising from the extension, you want to re-open the financial terms of the union.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We always contended that we were unfairly dealt with in so far as the matter of our relations with the Dominion financial concerns is concerned.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Well, Mr. Roblin, you remember that in the month of October, 1906, we had a conference of all the provinces at which your government was represented, at which the Governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan were represented, at which in fact all the provinces were represented, and that the financial terms of the different provinces were readjusted.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Yes, as to the eighty cents a head of population and the cost of civil government.

Mr. ROGERS.—If you recollect a distinct resolution was put in that we would not take part in that conference save and except these matters we are discussing now were entirely exempt.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Yes, that saving clause was put in. The only thing that was made permanent in that connection was the eighty cents per head of population and we do not wish to disturb this at all. We are not disturbing this. The eighty cents a head is satisfactory to us because we get the same as the other provinces as the capital account is eight millions. I think it is more in Saskatchewan, is it not, Mr. Fielding?

Mr. FIELDING.—I cannot tell you offhand.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—I do not see that memorial in the report I have in my hand I have the report of the conference here.

Mr. ROBLIN.—You will find it somewhere.

Mr. FIELDING.—That would be that you were free to consider the question of extending your boundaries; I do not remember any resolution that you would be free to consider any claim arising out of the extension of the boundaries.

Mr. ROBLIN.—That saving clause is in there.

Mr. FIELDING.—If it is it would not call for a general readjustment of finances; it would only call for consideration of the question of what additional obligations would be imposed by reason of the added territory. The resolution could not ask that all questions of subsidies and allowances should be considered, that that whole question should be reopened.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We left that in reserve knowing it had to come. We had been urging this extension for many years, knowing that when the extension came there would be a readjustment of the finances.

Mr. FIELDING.—Each province, according to its own view of things, had been urging, for one reason or another, some form of determining the financial conditions, and out of these urgings there arose this provincial conference, and when this provincial conference came to an agreement it settled that certain sums were to be paid to the different provinces. Don't you think that was to be reasonably regarded as a settlement?

Mr. ROBLIN.—British Columbia did not agree to it.

Mr. FIELDING.—We all said that British Columbia was unreasonable.

Mr. ROBLIN.—You cannot settle anything fully. Your own record, as a public man, Mr. Fielding, is all I have to refer to to justify any position we may have assumed. Take the case of Nova Scotia.

Mr. FIELDING.—I think the situation of the two provinces were not the same, but it would not be profitable for us to debate that.

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Mr. ROBLIN.—I think the cases are exactly alike and I could prove it if it were necessary, but I do not think it is necessary to refer to it. The whole thing is contingent upon equality. If Manitoba is not to have full sisterhood in the confederation of Canada, then there is going to be discontent, irritation, dissatisfaction. The strength of any chain is the strength of the weakest link, and we would therefore be the weakest link in the chain, and we do not feel, having done the pioneer work in the west, having established the bona fides of that country, and borne the burden of the early pioneer work down there, that we should be asked to taken a less favourable position in the confederation than Saskatchewan or Alberta.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Mr. Roblin, if you felt that Manitoba had a special claim, that was the time to present it to the Conference, just as British Columbia did. British Columbia contended that apart from the adjustment of the financial terms to which it agreed, British Columbia had a special claim to make, and British Columbia made it.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We could not get in anything of that kind because it was contingent, as you will remember. That was in what year?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—1906.

Mr. ROBLIN.—In what year was the Autonomy Bill passed?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—1905.

Mr. ROBLIN.—You will remember that previous negotiations took place, and we were always put off by the statement that when the new provinces were formed then we would have our claims considered, and we never up to that time got them considered.

Mr. ROGERS.—Might I see that memorandum of ours there?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Certainly.

Mr. FIELDING.—Would it not be correct to say, without going into the early history of any of the provinces, that our Government found that there were difficulties in the various provinces, that representatives of these provinces were appointed to present their claims, and that they did present them, one for one reason, and another for another. They were all agitating for some arrangement which would give the provinces a larger revenue, and out of that agitation the conference sprang, and I think we looked upon it as a tribunal which might competently settle the basis of such monies as the Dominion should contribute. Don't you think—I grant you at once that whatever arises out of the extension might be felt to be something that has to be provided for—but don't you think it is fair to contend that all financial matters between the various provinces and the Dominion were adjusted by that conference, and a happy solution reached?

Mr. ROBLIN.—No, I cannot agree with you that Manitoba should be asked to take a subordinate position to any other of the sister provinces.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Don't you think that the conference assembled here for that purpose?

Mr. ROBLIN.—What we are asking was not considered.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—It was considered.

Mr. ROBLIN.—I was there and Mr. Pugsley was the man who submitted the proposal that Manitoba should be reserved for other occasions. I said that was satisfactory.

Mr. FIELDING.—Where is the record of that? I am not saying it is not correct.

Mr. ROBLIN.—You will find it there somewhere. I have not it before me.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—I think your memory must be confused, Mr. Roblin because I cannot see why the conference would not consider the claim of Manitoba, just as it considered the claim of British Columbia.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Well, it decided their claims from another standpoint.

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Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—You say you asked for special treatment, and British Columbia asked for special treatment.

Mr. ROBLIN.—No, we do not ask for special treatment. We only want the same as Alberta and Saskatchewan. Mr. McBride based his contention on the fact that the topography of his province was different from the other provinces, and that relatively they contributed much more to the public exchequer than the other provinces, and received relatively much less, and he said therefore for that reason we must have special consideration. That was his claim.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—That was one claim. Your claim was that you wanted to have the same treatment that had been given to Alberta and Saskatchewan. I am not sure that that was not presented to the conference whatever might have passed between——

Mr. ROBLIN.—You remember you and I discussed the matter of the boundaries informally and said we will get to it some time.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—We had a conference!

Mr. ROBLIN.—At that time, at the time of the provincial conference.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—I do not remember, but if you say so I do not dispute it at all. There was much discussion on that occasion. We had a conference subsequently in the month of November following as to the extent of the boundaries.

Mr. ROBLIN.—You said in the near future we will give you a conference on the boundaries and you did.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Exactly, and we had a conference on the boundaries on the 12th of November, 1906. We discussed the territory to be added. Here is the record. We could not agree as between Ontario and Manitoba. Ontario wanted to go to the Churchill river. Manitoba wanted to go to the vicinity of Lake Superior. We could not agree, and therefore perhaps you mentioned the matter to me. Possibly you did, but at the conference on November 12, 1906 there was not a word mentioned with regard to an increased allowance. That conference was purposely to settle the boundary, and there was not a word said about the allowance.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Do not misunderstand me. We based our claim entirely on the fact that Alberta and Saskatchewan had received this consideration, and we claimed equality with them.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Exactly, I understand.

Mr. ROBLIN.—At that time we did not discuss it. We were waiting for the opportunity of discussing it with you.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I understand, and as far as I remember—and I think my memory serves me—that claim you are now pressing for equality of treatment with Alberta and Saskatchewan did not come before the 20th of January, 1908.

Mr. ROBLIN.—As soon as we got to discussing details——

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—But you see, Mr. Roblin, this claim of equal treatment is quite apart from the question of boundaries. Suppose you had no boundaries at all, suppose we did not agree on your boundaries, on the question of your boundaries, you would still put in the same claim, according to you.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We would make our claim, of course. It has been made for fifteen years.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Not upon this.

Mr. FIELDING.—Would you have the same claim? Suppose for illustration, suppose one of the provinces—say New Brunswick—New Brunswick participated in that conference—suppose the premier of New Brunswick, Mr. Hazen, said ‘I have been looking over that again and I do not think I have got equality of treatment with Alberta and Saskatchewan, and I am going to make a new claim for equality of treatment.’ Would not we be able to say, ‘Well, Mr. Hazen, that was settled at the conference of 1906?’

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Mr. ROBLIN.—The cases are not the same.

Mr. FIELDING.—What is the difference? We do not dispute the question of boundaries. Wherein would you differ in your present position from that I have described in the case of the Province of New Brunswick?

Mr. ROGERS.—Before you went into that conference we passed an Order in Council in effect that any discussion or arrangement at that conference was not to affect in any way the settlement of our boundaries.

Mr. FIELDING.—We are not dissenting to that, because we agreed that nothing the conference did could touch the principle of the boundary question. But, as Sir Wilfrid says, the other matters were settled. What is your reason for the claim as respects the territory to be added?

Mr. ROGERS.—I will read to you our claims. I do not need to read the description. (Reads)

‘That supplementary and in addition to the prevailing provisions as to the annual allowance of the province by the Dominion for cost of Government, and a per capita allowance of eighty cents a head of population, there be inserted in any Act of the Parliament of Canada extending the boundaries of the Province as above set forth, the following provisions respecting capital account and in lieu of lands, such provisions being in every respect similar to and identical with these respecting said matters as are contained in certain Acts of the Parliament of Canada, passed in the year 1905, creating the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta; and this House declares its willingness to agree to and approve of and does hereby and herein agree to and approve of, an extension by the Parliament of Canada of the boundaries of the Province in the manner and to the extent aforesaid, upon the said following terms and financial conditions (which terms and financial conditions are similar in all respects as to the matters herein referred to, as were extended to each of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and agreed upon between these Provinces and the Government of Canada, and as are contained in the said Acts creating those Provinces as aforesaid), being, to wit, as follows, that is to say:

‘Inasmuch as the Province of Manitoba is not in debt, it shall be entitled to be paid and to receive from the Government of Canada, by half-yearly payments in advance, an annual sum of four hundred and five thousand three hundred and seventy-five dollars, being the equivalent of interest at the rate of five per cent per annum on the sum of eight million, one hundred and seven thousand, five hundred dollars.

‘Inasmuch as the said Province will not have the public land as a source of revenue, there shall be paid by Canada to the Province, by half-yearly payments in advance, an annual sum based upon the population of the province as from time to time ascertained by the quinquennial census thereof, as follows:—

‘The population of the said Province being assumed to be at present two hundred and fifty thousand, the sum payable until such population reaches four hundred thousand shall be three hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars;

‘Thereafter, until such population reaches eight hundred thousand, the sum payable shall be five hundred and sixty-two thousand five hundred dollars;

‘Thereafter, until such population reaches one million two hundred thousand, the sum payable shall be seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars;

‘And thereafter the sum payable shall be one million, one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. As an additional allowance in lieu of public lands, there shall be paid by Canada to the Province, annually by half-yearly payments in advance, for five years from the time this Act comes into force, to provide for the construction of necessary public buildings, the sum of ninety-three thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars.

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‘For all the purposes aforesaid and such other or others as shall be warranted upon the statement of facts herein presented, this House prays for substantial relief and justice from the Parliament of Canada and desires to observe that any less arrangement than above set forth respecting said matters would be considered by your memorialists inequitable and unjust, and firmly rest its claims upon an equality of treatment, insofar as area and financial conditions are concerned, with our sister provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.’

That covers the whole thing.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—What date was that?

Mr. ROGERS.—That was 1908, January 1908.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Yes, certainly. This claim was presented in January 1908. I did not dispute that. But it was not presented in 1906 at the conference.

Mr. ROBLIN.—The representatives of the government of Manitoba going to the conference were instructed not to deal with it. Of course the conference could not deal with the boundary question.

Mr. FIELDING.—If there was no boundary question at all you would be asking to have equalization with Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Yes, we would.

Mr. FIELDING.—Well, you are asking something that has no connection with the boundary question nor yet arising out of it.

Mr. ROBLIN.—You cannot expect to have peace and contentment and all that should exist in Canada where there is no equality.

Mr. FIELDING.—It is not like a question of mathematics; it is always a debatable question.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—There were two conferences in 1906. One was for discussing with Saskatchewan and Ontario and Manitoba and the Dominion Government the extension of boundaries. At that conference the question of boundaries was discussed; the extension of the financial terms consequent upon that was not discussed. Another conference took place in 1906 with the view of readjusting the subsidies to be paid to the provinces. You were there, your government was represented; an adjustment was made of the allowance for civil government and everything else. No special claim was made by Manitoba at that time, the claim you present today.

Mr. ROBLIN.—That was reserved.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—The claim you present today is quite an independent question of the boundaries, has nothing to do with it. If you have a claim for equality, you have that claim whether your boundaries are extended or not extended. If you have a claim for equality, even if Manitoba were to be restricted to the present limits, you would have the same claim because you say you have not given the lands to Saskatchewan and Alberta but you have given them special treatment, and therefore if we are not to have the lands we ask for special treatment. What has that to do with the boundaries?

Mr. ROGERS.—Under the British North America Act when you extend the boundaries they are extended upon terms and conditions to be agreed upon by both governments as to the additional cost.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Exactly—and we are prepared to discuss it on these lines, that is to give you an allowance for the civil government of the new territory; whether it is to be so much or so much, that is the question we are prepared to discuss.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Well, the civil government cost is settled by the agreement reached at the interprovincial conference. We do not wish to reopen that. We do not ask you to reopen that.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—That is what you are doing.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We do not ask to reopen that.

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Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—That is the very thing.

Mr. ROBLIN.—What we do ask is that the capital account and the compensation for our public domain be adjusted.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Very good. That will cost you so much a year more. That is all you asked in 1908, but this is not consequent upon the boundaries. You say you should have that not only upon the boundaries of the new territory which are to be given to you, but even upon the old province such as it exists to-day.

Mr. ROBLIN.—The Province of Manitoba, I think I am safe in saying, fifty times in my recollection pleaded for better terms, and every time the Parliament of Canada would insert a clause, 'It shall be final and binding now and forever.' The terms that were made in 1885 have those words in them and I raised the question. I said it was absurd for the Parliament of Canada to talk about it being final.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—You tell us that you want a readjustment of the terms for the Province of Manitoba which you say you have been presenting from time to time for the Province of Manitoba as it exists to-day. That is altogether another matter. I am sorry it was not presented in 1906, but that is another matter.

Mr. ROBLIN.—My case is in one sentence: we want equality with Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Mr. FIELDING.—And you would feel, even though there was no boundary question, that there was still a lack of equality?

Mr. ROBLIN.—No condition of things could possibly arise whereby the Province of Manitoba would not be pressing for increased boundaries. They have been promised by every government that has existed since 1870 or 1871, since the Manitoba Act came into force, and we have been put off from time to time, and we think it unfair. That is the way the people of Manitoba feel. The Parliament of Canada, of course, has its reasons for not doing it. We have waited patiently, and we will have to wait I suppose patiently until the Parliament of Canada comes to see that it is absolutely necessary to do justice to Manitoba to secure that peace and contentment in this country that equality necessarily gives.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—That is altogether another question. The boundary question is another question altogether. You have been coming from time to time——

Mr. ROBLIN.—Interrupting you, Sir Wilfrid, we waited at your request until the formation of the western provinces in order that the whole matter could be settled up.

Mr. FIELDING.—The boundary matter.

Mr. ROBLIN.—You remember having made that statement when Mr. Davidson and I were here?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—That is the statement I made.

Mr. ROGERS.—I do not see where you make any difference. The question is simply this, under the British North America Act where a province has an increase of territory it brings up the readjustment of the financial conditions. You have made two new provinces and we ask this equality in our financial conditions, and time after time at every conference we had here we were simply pressing the same case, the extension of the boundaries together with the financial conditions. The boundaries have been fixed by the Parliament of Canada, but you have never made any arrangement with regard to the financial conditions, and we simply say: give us the same as Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Mr. FIELDING.—So far as the question arises from the extension of the boundaries, we admit that must be discussed. But it is quite evident you are asking more than that. You contend that Manitoba has not got a fair consideration. She wants equalization with these new provinces, and Mr. Roblin very properly admits that if we did not have the boundary question you would still have that grievance. Our point is that the things that arose outside of the boundary question, financial questions, were all covered and determined by the conference of 1906.

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Mr. ROBLIN.—There is nothing final in the Parliament of Canada.

Mr. FIELDING.—Of course nothing is final in this world.

Mr. ROBLIN.—You cannot make anything final.

Mr. FIELDING.—That is an extraordinary view to take. If men have agreed to a thing it becomes final.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Individuals might but a parliament cannot. No one man can bind a parliament, because the parliament of to-day might be a different one to-morrow.

Mr. FIELDING.—The whole purpose of that conference of 1906 was to reconcile the rivalries, if I may use that term, all possible conflicting claims of the various provinces.

Mr. ROBLIN.—No.

Mr. FIELDING.—And we were taking the view——

Mr. ROBLIN.—That was not the reason.

Mr. FIELDING.—To grant to one province a concession would not be fair to the others. We said: Let us bring all the provinces together and see if they cannot work out something that would be agreeable to all, and you sat together, and you did agree, which was acceptable to everybody except to Mr. McBride.

Mr. ROGERS.—Nothing affected the terms and conditions that we are asking for.

Mr. FIELDING.—Nothing affected the question of the boundaries.

Mr. ROGERS. We went into that conference with the distinct understanding presented to your Government that such a conference was not to affect these very questions.

Mr. FIELDING.—Not to affect the boundary questions.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—We do not find that in the record of the conference.

Mr. ROGERS.—I could find it in a minute. I have not my papers here but you will find it if you will look it up in the blue-covered book.

Mr. FIELDING.—As to the contents of that I have no doubt it is correct—I do not remember the statement, but the proceedings of the conference would show.

Mr. ROGERS.—It was not to prejudice our rights to the boundary.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—If you had made a reserve as to presenting claims you should have said: ‘Very well, we will go to that conference; we will settle other claims but we reserve this.’

Mr. ROBLIN.—It was written in. If this is the final report it is there. I have read it.

Mr. FIELDING.—In a publication of our people or of yours?

Mr. ROGERS.—An order in council submitted to you.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—The only memorial I remember was this memorial of 1908 in which the new terms given to Alberta were brought to our attention for the first time. I am sure it was not brought before 1908, but it may be that you had some claims which were presented previously to the government from time to time. I do not know whether it was about the lands, the swamp lands.

Mr. FIELDING.—School lands.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—No, swamp lands. I have a vague recollection that you had some claims of that kind which you wanted to present, but as to equality of treatment with Saskatchewan and Alberta, so far as my memory goes, I never heard of it, we never heard of it until January, 1908.

Mr. ROBLIN.—It was not brought up at the interprovincial conference.

Mr. ROGERS.—Because we had not had our interview with you.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—It could not be. You say you had before the conference the question of boundaries, and this question would exist even if you had no question of boundaries. Supposing you were to remain in your present boundaries, still you would press that claim for what you call equality of treatment with Saskatchewan and Alberta because you have not the allowance and they have. This is the basis on which you present your claim. It is not a question of boundary at all. It is another matter. There is no connection between the two things. The only thing

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we have to discuss to-day and we are prepared to discuss it, is what allowance should be made.

Mr. ROGERS.—What do you suggest then?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Let us ascertain if you are disposed to discuss upon that basis. We will settle it, we will try to settle it.

Mr. ROGERS.—We will discuss it with you if you give us equality with the other provinces.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—That is not the question before us to-day. That is another question altogether which, in my humble judgment, should have been presented to the conference in 1906 when the question of financial terms was discussed. It was not done. You say you did not press your claim. Very well, you say you have a claim—I do not say you have not. Let us put that aside. What we are here to-day for is to discuss what should be the financial terms which should be given to you as a fair allowance to carry on the civil government in the additional territory.

Mr. FIELDING.—The question is, what additional burden is imposed on you by taking over that territory. In other words, by taking all this territory are you burdened with additional expense? If so, what is it, and if so what can we do to assist you? Is that not the real question?

Mr. ROGERS.—Not at all. You gave Ontario and Quebec their lands. Give us the same.

Mr. FIELDING.—That is a question of compensation for the lands.

Mr. ROGERS.—We will take equality with either Quebec and Ontario or Saskatchewan and Alberta. Take your choice.

Mr. FIELDING.—In the consideration of the burden which may be imposed on you by the additional territory, the fact that you have not the lands will of course have to be considered. That will enter into it but that will not be opening up the general financial question. Would Ontario have the right to say in connection with her boundaries, 'We are not satisfied, we do not think we got as good treatment as Saskatchewan and Alberta, and therefore we demand a readjustment of our financial condition.' Do you think they would be justified in taking that position?

Mr. ROGERS.—We are willing to take what they have got, or Alberta, or Saskatchewan.

Mr. FIELDING.—Do you think that is a fair answer to my question?

Mr. ROGERS.—Yes, how can you justify giving Alberta and Saskatchewan an extension of territory and the subsidies you have given them, and refuse them to us.

Mr. FIELDING.—We think the principal on which you are proceeding is erroneous. We have not got into the question of amount. You are claiming a readjustment of the financial terms of Manitoba, not merely by reason of the boundaries, but generally, because you feel you ought to have equality. Our position is that whatever arises from the extension of boundaries is a legitimate claim, but that outside of that it is too late to raise claims, because all these claims were covered by the happy adjustment of 1906.

Mr. ROGERS.—None of these claims were covered in 1906. None of the claims mentioned here were covered, none of them.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—That was the time to mention them.

Mr. ROGERS.—We did not anticipate that there would be any doubt that we would get the same as Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—That is not reasonable, if you will permit me to use the expression. We were there to readjust the subsidies given to the provinces; you never put in any claim.

Mr. ROGERS.—I beg your pardon, that memorandum was in.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Before that conference you did not put up that claim.

Mr. ROGERS.—That memorandum is filed.

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Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—I do not see it here.

Mr. FIELDING.—Surely for what took place at the conference we must look to the record.

Mr. ROGERS.—It was transmitted here to the Government.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We have got the Order in Council. We can send you a certified copy. You must have that on file.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—To-morrow morning I will have to see, but I am satisfied, or my memory fails me very much, that no mention of these terms to Saskatchewan and Alberta ever came to us before 1908. You may have had other claims, I do not say you did not have, you say you had special claims, I do not say you did not have, and I do not say you did not present an account of them; I think you did. But that is quite foreign to the question to-day.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We have made our claim. We ask for equality with Alberta and Saskatchewan, whether you consider it reasonable or unreasonable, that is our position. Now we wait your counter proposition. If you cannot concede what we ask, tell us what you will do.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Well, I may tell you——

Mr. ROBLIN.—And then of course——

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Let us be clear and definite in all these things. If you ask a readjustment of subsidies our view is that such adjustment of subsidies is a matter for conference between the provinces. The subsidies were readjusted in 1906, and I do not think we have authority to reopen this condition which we thought was settled in 1906. You say nothing is finally settled; well and good, but there are methods. Other provinces are interested in that just as much as Manitoba is.

Mr. ROBLIN.—I do not think that any other province will protest. I make the statement and I believe the legislatures will support me in it. No legislature will oppose Manitoba having equality with Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Mr. ROGERS.—We were interested when you formed the terms and conditions of the new provinces and we were not consulted.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—As to what?

Mr. ROGERS.—The terms and conditions. The same argument would apply there.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—There is a wide difference. When we formed the new provinces, when a province has entered into confederation, then the terms are not to be disturbed.

Mr. ROGERS.—You are giving to Ontario their lands.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—In giving the lands to Ontario we are following the precedent which is the law of the land, of confederation. In not giving the lands to the new territory we are just following the very terms when the Province of Manitoba was formed. If you were to tell us to-day, 'Give us the territory and give us the lands in that territory,' that would be a different proposition. But you do not say that.

Mr. ROGERS.—Yes, we do. Give us the lands and we will accept them.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—In Manitoba also?

Mr. FIELDING.—Do you mean the lands in the new territory?

Mr. ROBLIN.—Manitoba as enlarged.

Mr. FIELDING.—We are not discussing Manitoba as a whole.

Mr. ROBLIN.—I am telling you the proposition we would be willing to accept, that is all. You give us our lands and minerals in the added territory as a whole, put us on an equality with Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, and in that respect we will be satisfied.

Mr. FIELDING.—In the new territory?

Mr. ROBLIN.—In Manitoba.

Mr. FIELDING.—You are urging that we should practically open up the whole terms of union which we do not think is fair to the other provinces. We think you should

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draw a distinction between your claim for opening up the whole question of union and for getting a proper allowance in connection with the extension of the boundaries.

Mr. ROBLIN.—I would be a very poor Manitoban, as well as a very indifferent Canadian, if I could come down here and say I am willing that our province should be made a subsidiary part of confederation, that it should have an unimportant and insignificant relation to the other provinces.

Mr. FIELDING.—Wherein do you differ from any other province?

Mr. ROBLIN.—Because she has not her lands and minerals and the other provinces have. There is Alberta and Saskatchewan on the one hand and Ontario and Quebec on the other. We will take either the one or the other.

Mr. FIELDING.—That is rather ancient history.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Canada is making history nowadays.

Mr. FIELDING.—You ought not to want to open up the old financial questions which we think were settled and covered in the conference in which you participated in 1906 and which do not touch your boundaries.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Do you think it would redound to the credit of Canada or the Parliament of Canada, if they had the power—which fortunately they have not got—to fasten terms and conditions on Manitoba that would make her different in her relations to the Dominion than any of the other provinces, less important, less influential?

Mr. FIELDING.—I think there would be nothing unfair in asking Manitoba to accept the general terms and conditions, the general financial scheme, which the Prime Minister of the Province of Manitoba agreed to in conference five years ago.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We do not ask you to disturb one thing that you did at that conference.

Mr. FIELDING.—I think you do.

Mr. ROBLIN.—The only thing we say was done was to increase the grant for civil government and to change the basis to eighty cents a head in Manitoba when we reach four hundred thousand souls. We can never get another dollar. Do you mean to say we should not ask for a change when Ontario got it? It is unfair to put us in a subordinate position.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—You are wrong there. If you had stated at the conference your claim——

Mr. ROBLIN.—I did say it.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Pardon me, it is not here.

Mr. ROBLIN.—It was not considered.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—If you had said, 'We here in the Province of Manitoba are not given the lands as Ontario and Quebec have their lands, and therefore we ask in addition to these terms what is being given to Alberta and Saskatchewan,' we who were present at the conference would have passed upon that, and if they had said, 'Yes, that is right,' it would have been done immediately. But it was not done.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We were waiting for an interview with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, to consider that matter. We had been waiting for a considerable length of time.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—There was an interview with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Aylesworth to hear every demand. If you had said, 'In the Province of Manitoba as at present constituted, no matter with reference to the boundaries, we are in a position of inequality; we have not the lands as Ontario has, and we have not as favourable terms as Saskatchewan and Alberta, and we ask these,' there was the time to put your claim, and they would have passed upon it.

Mr. ROBLIN.—But we expected when we got to you that we would get there.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—I take the ground in a matter of this kind that we should know where we are going.

Mr. ROBLIN.—I think it would have been a very improper thing and it would have been treated summarily if I had introduced any such question at that conference.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—I cannot see that.

Mr. ROBLIN.—That is my opinion. I can only give my opinion.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Surely if you had any claim such as you have to-day that was the time to make it, but you did not do so. You say you have a claim, I do not say No or Yes, but I want to impress upon you that if these terms as agreed to in 1906 are to be reopened, it seems to me that is a question to be determined by a conference. But that is another question. The question is you want to have the boundaries and we say 'Here they are, you are welcome to them, we are glad to give them to you if you want them. What shall we give you and what shall be the sum we shall give you for the allowance to carry on civil government in that territory?'

Mr. ROBLIN.—We do not want that incident opened, that is closed, the question of civil government.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—In the new territory?

Mr. ROBLIN.—It was closed at the conference.

Mr. FIELDING.—On the basis of population.

Mr. ROBLIN.—That was settled and anything settled at the conference we do not ask to be reopened.

Mr. FIELDING.—We thought all the questions, other than the boundary question pending between the federal government of Manitoba, the financial questions, were considered at that time.

Mr. ROBLIN.—No, that conference was called simply to consider the question of the cost of civil government and the eighty cents per head.

Mr. FIELDING.—Well, the subsidies.

Mr. ROBLIN.—The subsidies were not taken into account.

Mr. ROGERS.—There is no question that we transmitted the memorial.

Mr. FIELDING.—If the memorial was not presented at the conference, I do not think it would be a fair answer to my question. If you had regarded yourselves as not having equality with Alberta and Saskatchewan—and I have not attempted to say whether you have or not—I do not want Manitoba to occupy any subordinate position; it is the principle underlying your claim. We think it is opening up a question entirely apart from the boundaries. You are asking us to open up the whole question of union.

Mr. ROGERS.—Oh no.

Mr. FIELDING.—Leaving the boundary question, it surely was your duty to present the inequality claim at that time.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Absolutely no. I do not think so or I would have done it. On the contrary, we prepared an order in council and set out that that thing could not be dealt with, that we would not be governed or bound if they did deal with it, but fortunately they did not touch it.

Mr. FIELDING.—Would you not say unfortunately, because if you thought it should have been dealt with it would be rather unfortunate.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Suppose someone had undertaken to have the capital account between the provinces dealt with, they might not possibly have dealt with it from the standpoint we expected to deal with it later on, because we had before us what Saskatchewan and Alberta had been given, and we expected that we would get the same treatment. Sir Wilfrid Laurier indicated that when the proper time came he would deal with us fairly and generously.

Mr. FIELDING.—On the boundaries.

Mr. ROBLIN.—That was with Mr. Davidson and myself.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—I think we did.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We never tried to discuss all the terms, and we did not until a year ago. All we ask is, make us equal with Quebec or Nova Scotia on the one hand or with Saskatchewan and Alberta on the other, and if there is a Canadian from

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Halifax to Vancouver who says that is not just, then I will say I am not competent to form an opinion. Make us equal with one or the other, with Nova Scotia or with Alberta.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—There is no use in repeating it again, but we can't help doing it. That is not at all the question, that is not a question of the extension of the boundaries. You would ask that even if there were no boundaries involved.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Well, we have waited for that settlement, for you to deal with this matter for fourteen years—I think it was about 1896 when Mr. Greenway took up the matter and resolutions were passed, and it has been hanging ever since.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—The extension of boundaries?

Mr. ROBLIN.—Yes.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—There you are. We are prepared——

Mr. ROBLIN.—You said you did not want to deal with Manitoba until you made the new provinces.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—I do not think that is exactly what I said. I have the language here. It is reproduced in your memorial.

Mr. ROBLIN.—It is pretty nearly that. It is to that effect, and we were satisfied. We waited and after that interview we never saw you until about 1906.

Mr. FIELDING.—Capital account and subsidies are practically the one thing, because it is out of capital account that the subsidies are established. Sometimes they have to be diminished by lack of capital account, and sometimes increased, so that an addition to the capital account is practically an addition to the province. The capital account serves to produce the subsidy. Practically the two questions are one, capital account and subsidies, and we think if you felt that there was any inequality with Alberta or Saskatchewan or any other province, the time of the conference was the time to consider that. But after all that we want to draw the line distinctly. We recognize that your boundary line was not touched and that we ought to deal with you fairly and generously on your boundary question, but feel that we should not be asked to open up the question of union, even if the terms of union that were given to Alberta or Saskatchewan were not given to some other province in the union, I do not think that that other province, after the conference, was quite free to open it up and make a claim. That is what we think you wish to do.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Our claim, of course, is, as I say, equality. We think it is essential for confederation.

Mr. FIELDING.—If any province, after the conference, had said 'Looking over the matter we do not think we got equality,' would we not be justified in saying, 'You cannot open up that again?'

Mr. ROBLIN.—Parliament will have to do it as sure as time goes on. There can be no finality.

Mr. FIELDING.—There is no finality to anything, you might say, but here was a thing adjusted five years ago, and if any province of the Dominion were to come here and say, 'We think we did not get equality——'

Mr. ROBLIN.—But this thing was not dealt with. We had been to Sir Wilfrid long before that. I myself had been with him, and he had told us to wait until he had created the new provinces.

Mr. FIELDING.—He would deal with the boundary question, of course.

Mr. ROBLIN.—It was to be included in the boundary.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—There was no arrangement of that kind.

Mr. ROBLIN.—That was our understanding.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Possibly.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Of course we did not do anything because we were told to wait till the creation of the new provinces.

Mr. FIELDING.—To wait for the adjustment of the boundary question.

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Mr. ROBLIN.—And the whole matter of giving Manitoba her proper status in Confederation.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—I do not remember that that was ever discussed. Of course the boundaries were.

Mr. ROBLIN.—I do not say we went into details. What we came for was to ask for the extension of our boundaries, and we wanted to go west into Saskatchewan at that time, you remember.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Yes.

Mr. ROBLIN.—And you said 'You will have to leave that until a later time.'

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Exactly, that was the boundaries alone, not the financial terms. I said we must settle the boundaries of the new provinces and then we will take up yours.

Mr. ROBLIN.—That is what you said exactly.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—There was no question of financial terms at all discussed.

Mr. ROBLIN.—One was the sequence of the other.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—We are prepared to discuss that sequence now but you want to review the terms of Union passed when Manitoba was introduced to Confederation, and they were passed upon in 1906. This is what we said in 1905 at the time of the passing of the Autonomy Bills, when you brought in your memorial for the extension of the boundaries, as to which there was no question of finance:—

'The Committee are likewise of the opinion that the desire of the Province of Manitoba for an extension of its boundaries to the shores of Hudson Bay is not an unreasonable one, and they suggest that when the measure now before Parliament for the formation of the two provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan are disposed of, the subject of such an extension of the boundaries of Manitoba might profitably be considered.'

That was exactly in the line of whatever interviews I had with you.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Oh yes, there is no misunderstanding between you and me on that point. The only thing is that you do not think we should ask for equality.

Mr. FIELDING.—You emphasize that word 'equality'. Any province in the Dominion might see fit to say that it is not on terms of equality with another province. Our position is that if that question of inequality has relation to finances it was one of those matters which were adjusted five years ago. If there was any inequality, that was the time to settle it. They settled it happily and good-naturedly, and the money has been flowing into the treasury ever since. If any province should come and say, 'We do not think we are on equal terms with Manitoba,' would not we be justified in saying it is unfair to the other provinces to reopen that question?

Mr. ROBLIN.—But they would not say it. I am willing to submit my case to the public insofar as the question of inequality is concerned. I have no narrow personal view. I have got the broad Canadian view of it. It is for the good of Canada that Manitoba should have equality.

Mr. FIELDING.—Any of the other provinces might also make that claim.

Mr. ROBLIN.—They cannot make it. A man cannot make a claim, and have it considered to be a reasonable one for a moment unless he can show something to justify it. We say, place Manitoba in the same position as Nova Scotia or Quebec on the one hand, or Saskatchewan and Alberta on the other, and we will be satisfied to show that it is right.

Mr. FIELDING.—If Nova Scotia or Quebec were to come to us and ask us to re-adjust their financial relations I would have to say, 'You settled this thing five years ago.'

Mr. ROBLIN.—Suppose Ontario were to come here and say, We want to be placed in the same position as Manitoba, what would you think of it—that they were crazy?

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Mr. FIELDING.—I would say on the question of finance, 'Well, Sir James Whitney, you were present at the conference where you settled this question and it ought to be final.'

Mr. ROGERS.—That is not a fair construction, because the question we are dealing with now was not dealt with at all then.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Whose fault was it?

Mr. ROBLIN.—We were not called upon to consider it.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—That was the time to bring this question up. I want to say this for the present: We pass no judgment on your claim for a change in the financial terms which you claim. If you press that demand we will have to deal with it as we have dealt with other demands. We think an arrangement of this kind cannot be settled arbitrarily, that a conference of the provinces should settle that. But if you are simply to ask for an extension of the boundaries and a reasonable allowance consequent to that we are prepared to discuss it.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Well, tell us what you will give.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Are you prepared to discuss it on these terms?

Mr. ROBLIN.—I will consider anything you offer. I have told you what we want, I have told you what the legislature asked for.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Very good, if you tell us—

Mr. ROBLIN.—I am not prepared to accept personally anything other than what the legislature has authorized me to ask.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Certainly.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Now, if you cannot give what the legislature asks, make your proposition and tell us what you will give and we will submit it.

Conference continued in private.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE,

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, February 3, 1911.

Conference resumed.

Mr. ROGERS.—I wish this memorial placed on record:—

'Copy of a report of a Committee of the Executive Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, on September 20th, 1906.

'The Honourable the President of the Council submits for consideration of Council the following:—

'Whereas certain resolutions (a true copy of which are hereto annexed), respecting certain financial relations of the several provinces of confederation with the Dominion were agreed to at an inter-Provincial Conference held in the City of Quebec, in the month of January, 1903;

'And whereas said resolutions were unanimously approved of by the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Manitoba by resolution passed on the twenty-sixth day of February, A.D. 1906, and the Dominion Government has been memorialized to give effect thereto;

'And whereas all and singular the matters and things referred to and set forth in said resolutions are now before the Dominion Government for adjustment, and it has been arranged that a conference with respect thereto, with the view of a satisfactory solution thereof, take place between the said Dominion Government and representatives of the said several provinces, in the City of Ottawa on the eighth day of October proximo;

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‘And whereas it is wise and expedient that the Government of the Province of Manitoba should be represented at the said conference to urge the giving effect to by the Dominion Government of the requests contained in said inter-Provincial Conference resolutions;

‘On the recommendation of the Honourable the President of the Council, Committee advise.

‘(1) That the Honourable the President of the Council of the Executive Government of the Province of Manitoba be authorized and empowered to represent the province at the said conference for the purposes aforesaid, and on behalf of the province, to agree to such solution of the said several matters in issue, having regard especially to the rights of the Province of Manitoba, as shall, in his opinion, be fair, reasonable and just, and in the best interests and welfare of the province;

‘(2) That at the said conference it be distinctly understood and agreed that any allowances that may be made to the Province of Manitoba, with respect to the said several matters in issue, shall in no wise abrogate or dispose of certain other claims of the province respecting the swamp lands, the adequate compensation to the province for public lands taken and used for the purposes of the Dominion, the readjustment of the capital account of the province, the handing over to the province for administration of the school lands and the school lands fund, and the extension of the boundaries of the province, and any and all other matters or things not embraced within the several matters set forth in said inter-Provincial Conference resolutions, to all of which such other matters or things the province claims to be entitled to substantial relief from the federal authorities;

‘(3) That a copy of this report be forwarded to the Secretary of State of Canada.

Certified,

C. GRABURN,

Clerk, Executive Committee.

Winnipeg, 20th September, 1906.’

Mr. ROGERS.—That is what we wish to have on record.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—You want to have it on record that when you came to the conference of 1906 you had sent us a copy of an order in council in which you reserved your claim, certain claims you thought you had in regard to swamp lands, compensation for public lands taken by the Dominion, the readjustment of the capital account of the province and the administration of the school lands and the school lands fund.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We put it this way, Sir Wilfrid, I wish to say this, it is quite unexpected on our part that you should raise this question as to our right to ask for financial terms. We have asked for it by virtue of having accepted the terms that were agreed to at the inter-Provincial Conference held here in Ottawa, and therefore we wish to file as an answer to that, as a complete answer, the order in council that we now hand to you and a copy of which we wish to be made in the record. It is to us a sufficiency for all purposes to say that we are justified and that it is our duty to ask it at this time, and that it was intended to be such from the beginning. It is an answer to the question of our right to ask for the financial consideration we think we are entitled to.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Our answer to that, Mr. Roblin, is this, when the conference took place in 1906 it was with a view of putting an end to the agitation made by the province on this question or that question, for the adjustment of subsidies. For special reasons British Columbia put in a special claim. You did not then put in your claim—

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Mr. ROGERS.—We put this claim in.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—You did not put it in at the conference.

Mr. ROGERS.—We did.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—The record does not show it.

Mr. ROGERS.—What you examined last night, if you examine it closely, is only an extract of the records of that conference. Your own sessional papers for 1906 contain that. Here is the memorandum as contained in the memorial which was transmitted to you, a notice of which was sent—

NOTE.—The following paragraph was added in the case of Manitoba:—

It is, however, to be distinctly understood that in asking for this conference on the basis set forth, it shall in no way prejudice Manitoba's claim upon the Dominion in respect to her lands.

R. P. ROBLIN,
Premier of Manitoba.

Now, that is our order in council put in the official records.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—You reserved your claim, but you did not choose to present it to the conference at that time. You did not do as British Columbia did. So far as that is concerned, I have nothing to say against your method of proceeding, but in our judgment that matter was settled, and if it is to be dealt with, it should be dealt with in the same manner as the claim of British Columbia and the claims of any other province. We have come to the conclusion that you are pressing two different matters. One is for the adjustment of your subsidy which applies to the Province of Manitoba as it exists this day. Your other claim is for an addition to your territory of Manitoba as it exists this day, and what we wanted to discuss with you was, what would be the allowance which we think would be consequent upon this extension of your territory. The two claims are absolutely separate. We think we can deal with the latter; we do not think we can deal with the former except in the way that all those claims should be discussed, that is to say by a conference of the provinces.

Mr. ROBLIN.—I think the facts, unfortunately for your argument, are against you. The record we hand you sets out exactly what that conference was called for, and subsidies was not to be touched. The conference at Quebec decided what we were to meet here to press and subsidies were not to be touched. The resolutions are in the hands of the stenographer, and you can read them if you choose. They stipulate that we shall deal with the allowance that we get for civil government and the eighty cents per head and nothing else, and that is the only thing we dealt with. The government of Manitoba, fearing that there would be such a quibble as is raised now, fortified itself by passing the order in council and attaching the resolution that we came to consider. When we came here we followed that up by having Mr. Pugsley write in the records of the conference that Manitoba had reserved her rights in this connection so that the question could be raised at any subsequent time. We did not overlook anything in this particular that would prejudice our rights to a claim.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—There is no disagreement on this point with us. We think you should have brought your claim at that time but you think not, you reserved that.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Yes.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Very good.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We filed our claim with the Department.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Our answer is, if this claim is to be considered, if we are to reopen the questions that were settled in 1906, or if a new claim it to be presented, it ought to be presented in the same manner.

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Mr. ROBLIN.—Presented to whom?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—The claim should be adjudicated upon by a conference of the provinces.

Mr. ROBLIN.—But the conference of the provinces never was there for that purpose. The purposes of the conference are set out in the records of the preliminary meeting at Quebec where they particularly stipulated that the subsidies were not to be touched.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—The subsidies were touched. Now you have reserved a claim to yourself, I grant you that, and we do not want to ignore it. But we say this is not a case with which we can deal to-day.

Mr. ROBLIN.—If you say you cannot deal with it, there is no necessity for further argument.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—We say the claim you have to-day is for the extension of your boundaries and the allowance you should get for it. Now, we tell you we would be glad to have upon this point your view of what would be a legitimate allowance.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We have presented our case. We cannot agree to accept anything less than equality with either the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario on the one hand, or Alberta and Saskatchewan on the other. If you cannot give us equality, tell us what you can do and we will consider it.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—You connect two things which in our opinion are not connected. Your claim for a readjustment of your subsidies within the present limits of Manitoba is one thing; your claim for an extension of territory is another claim altogether. The legitimate allowance which we should give to the new territory is consequent upon that and ought to be considered also. We would be glad to have your view as to what you think would be a fair allowance in consequence of this addition to your territory.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Well, we have told you what we can accept. We are only repeating ourselves.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—In other words, you will not tell us what you think would be a fair claim.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We have told you.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—You mix up two things which we say are not to be mixed.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We are representing the Legislature of Manitoba, and they have instructed us what to ask for. We have presented their request. If you are not in a position to grant it, we will carry back any offer you choose to make as a counter one.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—To that we answer we are the representatives of the Parliament of Canada which has instructed us to give in consequence of the extension of your territory—

Mr. ROBLIN.—No resolution has been submitted to the Parliament of Canada as to what we should have.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Our Parliament has instructed us to negotiate with you as to what would be a fair compensation in the view that you shall not get the lands in the added territory. What would be fair compensation? We are instructed to negotiate on this basis. Therefore we get to this, and if you tell us—we cannot make any suggestion as to what would be a fair allowance—very well, we will know where we are.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We ask for equality with Alberta and Saskatchewan, and I cannot move from that position without an assurance that anything I might get would be acceptable to the people I represent in the province.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—You have your instructions; we have our instructions.

Mr. ROBLIN.—I would like to see your instructions.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—I showed you them yesterday and I will show you them again if you like.

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Mr. ROBLIN.—You are instructed to negotiate. We have told you definitely our proposition; you do not tell us anything.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Because we are on different bases.

Mr. ROBLIN.—You can call it anything you like. If you choose to put another word, if you choose to have our case called something else, a rose smells just as sweet to us under some other name, and if you choose to say you do not want to call it subsidies, why you are at liberty to offer it to us in some other way. But what we want is something equal to what is given to the other provinces.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—The two things I repeat are separate. We are prepared to deal with one, and to deal with the other in the proper shape. At the present time the claim we are considering is the claim for compensation or an allowance for the added territory. Upon the added territory we are agreed. We have fixed the limits—that is understood.

Mr. ROBLIN.—You did that without our authority. You made the limits and asked us to confirm them. It was not what we wanted. But why cannot you say the same about the financial conditions?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Pardon me, I asked you to give us your limits, and you gave us your limits. You wanted to extend them to Lake Superior. Ontario contended against that, and as neither of the parties could agree, we had to exercise our best government.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We did not look upon the others as a party to the negotiations at all.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—But they regarded themselves as a party to the negotiations. Then you tell us, 'We will not give you what our views are as to a fair allowance for this territory.'

Mr. ROBLIN.—My dear Sir Wilfrid, I have told you a thousand times, and multiply it a thousand times more if you choose, what we want. I would like to be understood. I ask for terms such as Alberta and Saskatchewan got, and you say—let there be no misunderstanding—you say you will not consider the claims Manitoba makes from that standpoint. Am I correct in that?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—I told you the two things cannot be considered together. They are not the same. They are absolutely dissimilar. In the first place you come here for an extension of your boundaries, and to know if we can agree upon a reasonable allowance consequent upon the extension of these boundaries.

Mr. ROBLIN.—I will put it another way. Are you prepared to offer us anything?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Let me answer that question by another. Are you prepared to suggest anything as to the extension of territory?

Mr. ROBLIN.—I have made a definite statement, and I would consider it courteous if you would make a definite statement.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—On matters of courtesy we have our own views.

Mr. ROBLIN.—As representing the Province of Manitoba I ask, are you prepared to offer us anything?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—We are prepared to consider at the present time what you are prepared to consider a fair allowance as to the extension of territory. It is there in our resolution which I have already read, but in order to make it clear I will read it again.

‘And be it further resolved:—

‘That whereas notwithstanding the extension of territory above described, the ungranted lands of the Crown in the territory so to be added to the said province will still continue to be administered by the Government of Canada for the purposes of the Dominion; and the said province will not have the public land as a source of revenue.

‘It is just and equitable to recognize the increased cost of civil government which such extension of territory will occasion to the province, and in view of

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the premises to make to the said province an increased allowance by money payment, the amount of which should be the subject of negotiation between the government of Canada and the government of Manitoba.'

Mr. ROBLIN.—Exactly, we have told you what we want.

Mr. FIELDING.—You emphasize very strongly again and again that you want equality with certain other provinces named. Our position is that whether any given province has or has not equality of financial terms with any other province is not a question for us to consider to-day.

Mr. ROBLIN.—All right.

Mr. FIELDING.—Let me finish. Any one province might claim, might sincerely claim, that in its judgment it has not equality with, we will not say Alberta, but with any of them. Now, the point is that whether any province has equality of terms with any other given province is not within the scope of our present negotiation. All we ought to be asked to do is to name a sum—I grant you we should name a sum, I agree with you there—to name what sum we should allow you on the basis of the resolution Sir Wilfrid has just read, having regard to the fact that you are not to have the lands in the added territory. That is our view. I do not need to insist upon it. Sir Wilfrid was hoping you would name something on that basis, but you say you cannot.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We have.

Mr. FIELDING.—Never to us. From your point of view you have. We think you have named it on a different basis. We need not differ on that. We cannot tell you in time to enable you gentlemen to leave to-day what sum we would agree upon; I agree you are entitled to know and to know quickly, what sum we think adequate under the terms of the resolution of parliament. We have had no consideration of details. I think you are entitled to know you cannot get it to-day, but at an early date you should know what sum we think you are entitled to.

Mr. ROBLIN.—That is all we expect, a definite statement of some kind from you. We think we ought to have—if you cannot give us what we think we are entitled to, what you think we are entitled to—and then if there is a possibility of finding a common ground, we can negotiate on it. But when we have positive instructions as to what we shall take from the legislature you will see it is impossible for us to change these terms until we can submit a counter proposition and see how far we can reconcile them. That is our position.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—I do not dispute that you have a right to ask anything. We approach the thing from different points of view, that is all. We were hoping you would give us an idea—put aside the other thing which you have reserved your claim to make, and which therefore you will make; put aside the other claim altogether—we did hope that in regard to this new territory which will be added to Manitoba, and which we think it is fair you should have an allowance as you have not the lands, you would give us your own view as to the value of the lands there. I understand there is no prairie land in that new territory.

Mr. ROBLIN.—What is your information?

Mr. FIELDING.—What is your information, your impression of the character of the land?

Mr. ROBLIN.—We never had a man over it.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—From general information have you formed your own views?

Mr. ROBLIN.—We understand there is some good land. Mr. Beach, who spent some years at Churchill, and knows a great deal about the country, has told me there is some very valuable timber up there, and there is some land we think good, and a good deal he says he does not think is of much account. But he looks upon it as a very important part of Canada.

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Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—My information is that there are good grazing lands. not a large quantity, a small quantity.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Patches.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Not much, but there is a belt of fairly good timber. The rest is not of much account, and unless minerals are discovered is of very little account.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Well, we have never felt justified in going to the expense of sending any experts over it. We did not have any reason for it, because we did not have any information that we would be given the lands, or asked to consider it from that standpoint, that is the standpoint of their actual value.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Since we cannot have the benefit of your views, we will have to do the best we can without it.

Mr. ROBLIN.—If you will listen to us we will settle it in five minutes, and I think you can take it for granted you will not find any opposition from the men who sit on the opposition side of the House.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—If there is to be no opposition on the other side, it must be a very bad arrangement.

Mr. ROBLIN.—I think they will justify or endorse anything you do along that line, so long as it conforms to our request. We are only asking what is fair. Of course there are some details; we admit there is a good deal of detail. If you agree to the principle it has got to be figured out. That is a matter of calculation in Mr. Fielding's Department.

Mr. FIELDING.—We agree to the principle that any revival of the financial relations of the various provinces as to equality one with another does not come within the scope of our present discussion, but that we have a right to give you terms, and generous terms we would hope you believe, in consideration of these lands being now given to you by way of extended territory and the lands reserved for the Dominion Government. The point is, what is a fair allowance for that quantity of added land, having regard to the questions which usually enter into such a matter.

Mr. ROGERS.—When that conference was held, they had before them our position, and they did not regard it as necessary to deal with it, because they were not questions affecting the different provinces.

Mr. ROBLIN.—That was understood. I think Mr. Pugsley will tell you that.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—That may be the point of view of the provinces perhaps, but we have something to say also. Our object was once and for all to settle all claims. You see we had been troubled in the past by questions being raised and we must have finality some time or another.

Mr. FIELDING.—I do not think we would have entered into that conference if it had not been for the belief that by getting the provinces together in the conference we were going to have a general understanding on the financial questions between us. It would not have been worth our while to invite the provinces except on that basis.

Mr. ROGERS.—But we passed an order in council and transmitted it to the Governor in Council here.

Mr. ROBLIN.—I remember sitting beside Mr. Pugsley. He signed that which Mr. Rogers read.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—The only thing to be deduced from that is that you have reserved your rights; they are not closed.

Mr. FIELDING.—They are closed so far as we can go.

Mr. ROBLIN.—You don't want to consider——

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Our position is that the two things have no connection one with the other. They are two different matters. If you had no extension of your boundaries, you would still have that claim to prosecute, would't you?

Mr. ROBLIN.—Well, we claim equality.

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Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—Certainly, but you would be pressing your claim if there was no question of boundaries. It has no connection with the question of boundaries. We are dealing with the question of boundaries to-day.

Mr. ROBLIN.—We have reserved our case for years pending just such a meeting as this. We waited for the final settlement of the matter. There will be finality as regards the boundaries. If these have been crystallized into a statute, that is finality so far as the boundaries are concerned; that is final. But so far as the financial relations of the various provinces of the Dominion are concerned, there will never be finality as long as time exists, because the provinces change from year to year. Why, Mr. Sifton, the first Minister of Alberta, has already given you notice that he is not satisfied and is going to agitate for the reopening of the whole thing.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—That is the very reason now that we put this bar against your claim to-day. If these claims were to be considered there would be no end, there would be no finality. Conditions change but where there is no change there should be finality.

Mr. ROBLIN.—But they have changed.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—You say you have been pressing several claims, claims for swamp lands and matters of that kind. Very good, we thought these were settled. You say you purposely reserved them. Very good, we have to abide by that. At the same time we insist that the two things are to be kept separate.

Mr. ROBLIN.—What is your offer?

Mr. ROGERS.—The only condition apparently which has never changed is that Manitoba has not been able to get what she wanted.

Mr. FIELDING.—Very few people in this world get what they want.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—I think we have treated you very fairly.

Mr. ROBLIN.—Well, it is not because we have not pressed or presented our claim. We have waited with great patience for this interview that we are having to-day for years and years in order that the matter might be settled. Unfortunately you are not in a position to consider it although you knew it had to come, because that is our memorial, that is all the State papers cover.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.—You present one case and the other side cannot view it in the same way. We are discussing only one question. I do not know that we can add anything to that. We will send you our answer.

Mr. FIELDING.—We will see that a commission reaches you at an early date. It would not be fair to give you an answer to-day. If you cannot make any proposal, and we regret that you cannot, we will see what we can do. I think that is a reasonable proposal. We shall give you a memorandum of what we will do, and we will do it quickly.

Conference continued in private.

(P.C. 2847.)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SASKATCHEWAN,

REGINA, November 8, 1911.

DEAR MR. BORDEN,—On the question of extension of provincial boundaries the Saskatchewan government observes that the Minister of the Interior said at Winnipeg on October 31, that before many days passed Manitoba's representatives would be invited to Ottawa and he was satisfied that then and there a basis of settlement would be arrived at.

In view of the probable early consideration of this question by your Government it becomes my duty to draw to your attention the fact that the Province of Saskache-

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wan is interested in its settlement. Our interest was recognized by the late administration of Sir Wilfrid Laurier by its invitation to the Saskatchewan Government to attend and present the province's claims at a conference held at Ottawa, November 12, 1906. We there submitted a memorandum setting forth the grounds upon which Saskatchewan claims the right to an extension of boundaries to Hudson Bay. Inasmuch as a recital of the main facts in support of our claim is contained in the said memorandum which doubtless will be found on your files and of which I attach a copy herewith, it will be unnecessary now for this Government to do more than remind you that Saskatchewan has entered a claim and to draw your attention to the fact that the Government and people of Saskatchewan believe that the conditions set out in the memorandum furnish an exceedingly strong claim on the part of this province for the inclusion within its boundaries of territory and inhabitants that until 1905 were associated with and under the jurisdiction of the Northwest Territories Government at Regina, and for a new boundary to give the grain producers of the premier grain producing province of the Dominion their own direct access to the seaboard on Hudson bay. You will observe on page 6 of the printed memorandum the declaration of this Government's opinion that our claim to 'that portion of the territory which was formerly part and parcel of the provisional district of Saskatchewan and Athabasca is absolute and paramount and no other province has or can have any claim thereto.'

Being apprized that it is the intention of your Government to deal with the question forthwith and in view of the fact that you have only assumed office and may not be fully acquainted with the history of the negotiations in respect of the matter I deem it due to you as well as to this province whose people have a strong interest in it to call your attention to Saskatchewan's claims.

Believe me.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) WALTER SCOTT.

MEMORANDUM WITH REFERENCE TO THE CLAIM OF THE PROVINCE
OF SASKATCHEWAN FOR AN EXTENSION OF BOUNDARIES
TO HUDSON'S BAY.

CERTIFIED copy of a minute of the Executive Council of the Province of Saskatchewan, dated at Regina on Monday, November 5, 1906, and approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Executive Council advises that the Hon. the President of Council, and the Hon. the Attorney General, be authorized, delegated and empowered, on behalf of the Executive Government of Saskatchewan, to present to the Hon. the Privy Council for Canada the claim of this province to have the north-eastern boundaries of the province extended to Hudson's Bay by the readdition of those parties of the old Provisional Districts of Saskatchewan and Athabaska which were temporarily withheld from the province of Saskatchewan upon its establishment, together with that part of the Northwest Territories lying between the Nelson River and the sixtieth parallel of north latitude.

(Signed)

JOHN A. REID,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

CLAIM OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN TO HAVE CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES INCLUDED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROVINCE.

The claim of the province of Saskatchewan to that portion of the Northwest Territories lying immediately to the east of the northern part of the province is not based upon mere sentiment, nor is it founded simply upon a desire for territorial extension.

To understand the exact situation, a brief review of the history of the Western Territories of Canada and the establishment of the provinces therein, including the territory now under consideration, may not be inadvisable.

The British North America Act 1867 (section 146) made provision for the admission of Rupert's land and the Northwestern Territory into the Union, by Her Majesty, upon an address from the Houses of Parliament in Canada, and subsequently on June 23, 1870, an Order was made by the Queen in Council, admitting Rupert's Land and the Northwestern Territory into the Union. The boundaries of Rupert's Land were never accurately determined, but it was generally understood to comprise the territory watered by streams flowing into Hudson's Bay and Straits, but Rupert's Land and the Northwestern Territory taken together have been defined to be that portion of British America lying north and west of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, excepting British Columbia.

Prior to the passing of the order in council admitting Rupert's Land and the Northwestern Territory into the Union, the Parliament of Canada, in anticipation of their admission, passed an Act in 1869 (32 and 33 Vic., Cap. 3) which declared that these territories when admitted should be styled and known as 'The Northwest Territories,' and in which provision was made for the temporary government thereof, the Governor in Council being authorized to appoint a Lieutenant-Governor, and empower him to make laws for the peace, order and good government of Her Majesty's subjects therein. In the following year (1870), and a few weeks before the date of the Imperial Order in Council admitting Rupert's Land and the Northwestern Territory into the Union, the Parliament of Canada passed an Act (33 Vic., Cap. 3) by section 1 of which a portion of the said territory was formed into the Province of Manitoba. The boundaries of the province were as follows:

Commencing at the point where the meridian of ninety-six degrees west longitude from Greenwich intersects the parallel of forty-nine degrees north latitude,—thence due west along the said parallel of forty-nine degrees north latitude (which forms a portion of the boundary line between the United States of America and the said Northwestern Territory) to the meridian of ninety-nine degrees of west longitude,—thence due north along the said meridian of ninety-nine degrees west longitude, to the intersection of the same with the parallel of fifty degrees and thirty minutes north latitude, thence due east along the said parallel of fifty degrees and thirty minutes north latitude to its intersection with the before-mentioned meridian of ninety-six degrees west longitude,—thence due south along the said meridian of ninety-six degrees west longitude to the place of beginning.

By the said Act (Sec. 35) it was enacted that the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba should be also, but *in an independent capacity*, the Lieutenant-Governor of that portion of Rupert's Land and the Northwestern Territory not included in the Province of Manitoba, but in the following year (Chap. 16 of 34 Vic.) Parliament gave to the Governor General in Council authority to appoint a lieutenant-governor for the Territories and enacted that 'it shall be lawful for the governor, with the advice of the Privy Council, to authorize and empower such officer as he may from time to time appoint as the lieutenant-governor of the Northwest Territories, to make provision

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for the administration of justice therein and make laws and ordinances for the peace, order and good government of Her Majesty's subjects and others' in the said Territories.

Under the provisions of this last Act the Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Territories, upon advice of his Council, made provision for the administration of justice in various parts of the Territories so far back as March, 1873, by the appointment of justices of the peace at (in addition to other points) Moose Factory, Rupert's House, Albany, York Factory, Norway House, East Main, Nelson River, Fort Alexander and James bay. Some of these places were situated in that part of the Territories which has since become the district of Keewatin but which is now a part of the Northwest Territories.

After the erection of a portion of the Northwest Territories into the Province of Manitoba boundaries both of Manitoba and Northwest Territories remained unchanged until the year 1876. In the meantime, however, the Province of Ontario laid claim to a portion of the territory lying east of what is now the Province of Manitoba. This claim was disputed both by the Dominion Government and the Province of Manitoba, and, pending a settlement of the dispute and the fixing definitely of the western boundary of the Province of Ontario, the Parliament of Canada deemed it expedient to detach from the Northwest Territories that portion of the territory lying between Ontario and Manitoba including the territory which was in dispute and extending along the west side of Hudson bay to the northerly limit of Canada and to form the same into a separate district known as the district of Keewatin. That part of the Northwest Territories formed into the district of Keewatin by 39 Vic. Cap 21 is described as follows:

All that portion of the Northwest Territories bounded as follows, that is to say:—Beginning at the western boundary of the Province of Ontario on the international boundary line dividing Canada from the United States of America; thence westerly following upon the said international boundary line to the easterly boundary of the Province of Manitoba; thence due north along the said easterly boundary of Manitoba to the northeast angle of the said province; thence due west on the north boundary of the said province to the intersection by the said boundary of the westerly shore of Lake Manitoba; thence northerly following the westerly shore of the said lake to the easterly terminus thereon of the portage connecting the southerly end of Lake Winnipegosis with the said Lake Manitoba known as 'the Meadow portage'; thence westerly following upon the trail of the said portage to the westerly terminus of the same, being on the easterly shore of the said lake Winnipegosis; thence northerly following the line of the said easterly shore of the said lake into 'Cedar lake' known as the 'Cedar' or 'Mossy portage'; thence northerly following the trail of the said portage to the north end of the same on the shore of Cedar lake; thence due north to the northerly limits of Canada; thence easterly following upon the said northerly limits of Canada to the northern extremity of Hudson bay; thence southerly following upon the westerly shore of the said Hudson bay to the point where it would be intersected by a line drawn due north from the place of beginning, and thence due south on the said line last mentioned to the said place of beginning—shall be and is set apart as a separate district of the said Northwest Territories by the name of the district of Keewatin:

Provided always that the Governor in Council may, by proclamation published in the *Canada Gazette*, at any time when it may appear to the public advantage to do so, detach any portion of the said district from the same, and re-annex it to that part of the Northwest Territories not included in the said district; and the portion so detached shall then be subject to the same government and laws as that part of the said Territories to which it is re-annexed.

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Attention is called to the above proviso, because some years later (vide Proclamation of May 7, 1886, as printed on page XLI Dominion Statutes of 1886) the Governor General in Council deemed it to be *to the public advantage* to detach from the district of Keewatin that part of the above described territory lying between the westerly boundary line as above described from Cedar lake north to the eighteenth correction line and the Nelson river, and to re-annex it to the Northwest Territories from which date until the establishment of the Province of Saskatchewan the territory formed part of the provisional district of Saskatchewan, and was under the government and administration of the Northwest Territories.

In the year 1881 (by 54 Vic. Cap. 14) the boundaries of Manitoba were altered and extended and the area of the province greatly increased.

The boundaries were then defined to be as follows:—

Commencing at the intersection of the international boundary dividing Canada from the United States of America by the centre of the road allowance between the twenty-ninth and thirtieth ranges of townships lying west of the first principal meridian in the system of Dominion land surveys; thence northerly, following upon the said centre of the said road allowance as the same is or may hereafter be located, defining the said range line on the ground across townships one to forty-four, both inclusive, to the intersection of the said centre of the said road allowance by the centre of the road allowance on the twelfth base line in the said system of Dominion land surveys; thence easterly along the said centre of the road allowance on the twelfth base line, following the same to its intersection by the easterly limit of the district of Keewatin, as defined by the Act thirty-ninth Victoria, Chapter 21, that is to say to a point where the said centre of the road allowance on the twelfth base line would be intersected by a line drawn due north from where the westerly boundary of the Province of Ontario intersects the aforesaid international boundary line dividing Canada from the United States of America; thence due south following upon the said line to the international boundary aforesaid; thence westerly, following upon the said international boundary line dividing Canada from the United States of America, to the place of beginning, and all the land embraced by the said description not now within the Province of Manitoba shall, from and after the passing of this Act, be added thereto, and the whole shall, from and after the said date, form and be of the Province of Manitoba.

These boundaries were supposed to extend the limits of Manitoba very much farther east than the present eastern boundary, and were intended to include within that province the western portion of what is now the Province of Ontario, that is, the territory which was in dispute. The disputed territory, however, lying south of the Albany river, Lake St. Joseph and Lac Seul, was awarded to the Province of Ontario and the boundaries of that province were fixed and determined, by Chapter 28 of 52 and 53 Vic. (Imperial). This restricted the area of Manitoba to some 73,000 square miles. Since the fixing of the western boundaries of Ontario the boundaries of Manitoba have not been altered.

Before the establishment of the Province of Saskatchewan more than once an incipient agitation commenced within the Province of Manitoba intended to lead to an extension of the boundaries westward, but the feeling of those residents of the Northwest Territories most affected being so determinedly opposed to the proposition the movement always subsided. The feeling of the people of the Territories with respect to this question was on more than one occasion emphatically set forth in resolutions of the Territorial Legislative Assembly.

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KEEWATIN.

The decision which gave to the Province of Ontario the territory south of the Albany River and as far west as the Lake of the Woods, limited the district of Keewatin to the territory lying directly north of the Province of Manitoba, and fixed its eastern boundary at a line running north from the western boundary of the Province of Ontario. The boundaries of Keewatin have subsequently been altered. Under the authority given by the Keewatin Act to the Governor in Council to detach any portion of the territory from Keewatin and re-annex it to the Northwest Territories, whenever it was for the *public advantage to do so*, the Governor in Council by proclamation, on May 7, 1886, detached that portion of Keewatin lying between Manitoba and the eighteenth correction line and west of the Nelson River, and re-annexed that area to the Northwest Territories, and included it in the Provisional District of Saskatchewan.

By Order in Council of October 2, 1895, it was decided that legislation should be introduced into the then next following session of Parliament having for its object an addition to the district of Keewatin by the extension of the eastern boundary of Keewatin to take in all the territory lying between the northern boundary of Ontario and Hudson's Bay. The action contemplated was, however, never taken (vide order in council of December 18, 1897) but by proclamation of July 24, 1905, the whole of the district of Keewatin was re-annexed to the Northwest Territories from September 1, 1905. (vide *Canada Gazette* of August 19, 1905.)

THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

By an order in council bearing date May 8, 1882, the districts of Assiniboia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Athabaska were established as provisional districts out of portions of the Northwest Territories, and were severally declared to be bounded as follows:—

Assiniboia: The district of Assiniboia, about 95,000 square miles in extent, to be bounded on the south by the International boundary line, the 49th parallel; on the east by the western boundary of Manitoba; and on the north by the ninth correction line of the Dominion lands system of survey into townships, which is near to the fifty-second parallel of latitude; on the west by the line dividing the tenth and eleventh ranges of townships numbered from the fourth initial meridian.

Saskatchewan:—The district of Saskatchewan, about 114,000 square miles in extent, to be bounded on the south by the districts of Assiniboia and Manitoba; on the east by Lake Winnipeg and the Nelson river flowing therefrom into Hudson's Bay; on the north by the eighteenth correction line of the Dominion Lands Survey system; and on the west by the line of that system dividing the tenth and eleventh ranges of townships numbered from the fourth initial meridian.

Alberta:—The district of Alberta, about 100,000 square miles in extent, to be bounded on the south by the international boundary; on the east by the districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan; on the west by the Province of British Columbia; and on the north by the eighteenth correction line before mentioned, which is near the fifty-fifth parallel of latitude.

Athabaska:—The district of Athabaska, about 122,000 square miles in extent to be bounded on the south by the district of Alberta; on the east by the line between the tenth and eleventh ranges of Dominion Lands townships before mentioned, until in proceeding northward that line intersects the Athabasca river; then by that river and the Athabaska Lake and Slave River, to the intersection of the last with the northern boundary of the district, which is to be the thirty-

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second correction line of the Dominion lands townships system and is very nearly on the sixtieth parallel of north latitude; westward by the Province of British Columbia.

By order in council dated October 2, 1895, the provisional districts of Athabaska was declared to be bounded as follows:

The district of Athabaska, containing 251,300 square miles, bounded on the south by the districts of Alberta and Saskatchewan; on the east by the district of Keewatin; on the north by the thirty-second correction line of the Dominion lands system of survey; and on the west by the Province of British Columbia.

In 1898 the provisional district of the Yukon was detached from the Northwest Territories and formed into a separate district under the name of the Yukon Territory and since that time has had a government of its own.

In 1905 the organized portion of the Northwest Territories, that is to say, the provisional districts of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Athabaska (with the exception of a small portion of the eastern end of the districts of Saskatchewan and Athabasca) were formed into the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, the boundaries of which are as follows:—

Alberta:—The territory comprised with the following boundaries, that is to say:—Commencing at the intersection of the international boundary dividing Canada from the United States of America by the fourth meridian in the system of Dominion lands surveys; thence westerly along the said international boundary to the eastern boundary of the Province of British Columbia; thence northerly along the said eastern boundary of the Province of British Columbia to the north-east corner of the said province; thence easterly along the parallel of the sixtieth degree of north latitude to the fourth meridian in the system of Dominion lands surveys as the same may be hereafter defined in accordance with the said system; thence southerly along the said fourth meridian to the point of commencement,—is hereby established as a province of the Dominion of Canada, to be called and known as the province of Alberta.

Saskatchewan:—The territory comprised within the following boundaries, that is to say:—Commencing at the intersection of the international boundary dividing Canada from the United States of America by the west boundary of the Province of Manitoba, thence northerly along the said west boundary of the Province of Manitoba to the northwest corner of the said Province of Manitoba; thence continuing northerly along the centre of the road allowance between the twenty-ninth and thirtieth ranges west of the principal meridian in the system of the Dominion lands surveys, as the said road allowance may hereafter be defined in accordance with the said system, to the second meridian in the said system of Dominion land surveys, as the same may hereafter be defined in accordance with the said system; thence northerly along the said second meridian to the sixtieth degree of north latitude thence westerly along the parallel of the sixtieth degree of north latitude to the fourth meridian in the said system of Dominion lands surveys, as the same may be hereafter defined in accordance with the said system; thence southerly along the said fourth meridian to the said international boundary dividing Canada from the United States of America; thence easterly along the said international boundary to the point of commencement,—is hereby established as a province of the Dominion of Canada to be called and known as the province of Saskatchewan.

The establishment of the Province of Saskatchewan with the above described boundaries left out that portion of the provisional districts of Saskatchewan and

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Athabaska of the Northwest Territories lying north of the Manitoba boundary, and these were the only portions of the organized districts not included in the new provinces.

The territory, the division of which among the provinces is under consideration, comprises that portion of the Northwest Territories which formerly formed part of the provisional districts of Saskatchewan and Athabaska lying north of Manitoba, the territory which was formerly the district of Keewatin, and also the territory lying between the Province of Ontario and Hudson's bay. In this territory three provinces only are interested, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, as these are the only provinces whose boundaries touch the territory under consideration, and the question is, *How should the territory be distributed among the provinces?*

In deciding this question it is submitted that it is necessary to ascertain if any of the provinces have special or paramount claims to any portion of the territory.

The claim of Saskatchewan to that portion of the territory which was formerly part and parcel of the provisional districts of Saskatchewan and Athabasca is, it is maintained, absolute and paramount and no other province has or can have any claim thereto. This portion may be described as follows:—

Bounded on the south by the Province of Manitoba; on the west by the Province of Saskatchewan; on the north by the thirty-second correction line of the Dominion Lands townships system of survey which is very nearly the sixtieth parallel of north latitude; on the east by a line commencing at the point where the 100th meridian of west longitude intersects the thirty-second correction line aforesaid, thence following the said 100th meridian south to the eighteenth correction line in the said system of survey, thence in an easterly direction along the said eighteenth correction line to the point where the said correction line intersects the Nelson river, thence southerly along the Nelson river to Lake Winnipeg, thence along the northern and western shores of Lake Winnipeg in a southerly direction to the point where it intersects the northern boundary of the Province of Manitoba.

The claim of the Province of Saskatchewan to the territory is paramount because

1. This territory formed part of the organized districts of Saskatchewan and Athabasca and was under the control and government of the Northwest Territories from its organization until the formation of the Province of Saskatchewan when it was not included within the area of that province.

2. This territory was governed and administered by the Government of the Northwest Territories. It was represented in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, being formerly in the electoral district of Cumberland, then in the electoral district of Prince Albert East and after 1902 in the electoral district of Kinistino. At every election for the Legislative Assembly polling divisions were established in this territory. The laws in force were the laws of the Northwest Territories, and these were enforced and administered by the police and judges of the Northwest Territories. The legislature of the Northwest Territories made the laws for this territory and no other legislature except the Parliament of Canada had any authority therein. This territory was as much a part and parcel of the organized Northwest Territories as was the City of Regina or the Municipality of Indian Head and had an equal right to be included within the province.

3. The inhabitants of this territory do not want to be included within the Province of Manitoba, but they do want to be included within the Province of Saskatchewan.

This has been made absolutely clear by the people themselves on every occasion on which they had an opportunity of giving expression to their wishes. The first opportunity afforded them for giving expression to their views was in 1901 in the

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Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories when a resolution was submitted in the following terms:

That in the opinion of this House no terms should be accepted for the erection of the Territories into a province or provinces entailing the annexation of any portion thereof of the Province of Manitoba.

The people of this territory, then part of the electoral district of Prince Albert East, through their duly accredited representative on the floor of the Assembly (Mr. S. McLeod), protested strongly against any extension of the northern boundary of Manitoba which would include them within that province.

And again in the year 1902 a resolution was introduced into the Assembly of the Northwest Territories, reiterating the position taken the year previous, and on this occasion also the people of this territory, through their representative in the Assembly, declared that they did want to continue to be a part of the Northwest Territories and to obtain provincial status along with the other portions of the said territory. (See Journals of the Assembly 1902.)

But further, the people of this territory are represented in the Parliament of Canada by Dr. E. L. Cash, M.P., one of the representatives of the Province of Saskatchewan, the territory being part of the electoral district of Mackenzie for federal purposes, and in 1905, when the Saskatchewan Act was before Parliament, the people of this territory through Dr. Cash, their representative, protested against being left outside of the Province of Saskatchewan, then being established. So that on every occasion on which an opportunity presented itself the residents of this territory, through their duly accredited representative, declared their desire to be united with the territory now forming the Province of Saskatchewan and most emphatically negatived the suggestion that they be included within the Province of Manitoba.

THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES PETITION.

But that is not all. The residents of this territory did not rest content with simply giving expression to their views through their accredited representatives. In 1905 when the Saskatchewan Act was before Parliament, and it was known that the territory was not included within the proposed Province of Saskatchewan, the people themselves gave most direct and explicit expression to their views in a petition which they prepared and forwarded to their representative at Ottawa, Dr. Cash, asking that they be included within the Province of Saskatchewan (vide Hansard 1905, cols. 4833, 4834 and 4835. The petition is in the following words:—

‘To the Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER, K.C.M.G.,

‘SIR,—We, the undersigned, electors of Mackenzie district, Northwest Territories, and residing at or near The Pas, Sask., having learned but recently that an effort is being made by the Government of Manitoba to have that portion of the Territories, lying north of Manitoba, joined to and included in the Province of Manitoba, *and such annexation being repugnant to us*, and as we believe, detrimental to the best interests of this portion of the country, we therefore humbly petition *that our political affiliation may be with the Territories and not with Manitoba*, and in case of provincial autonomy being granted the Territories our destiny

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may be in and with that portion of the Territories of which we form an integral part and for such, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.'

G. MALCRON, The Pas, Sask.
 M. B. EDWARDS, "
 JOHN H. GORDON, "
 R. F. McDOUGALL, "
 JOSEPH COURTNEY, "
 LOUISON MARCELLAIS, The Pas, Sask.
 EDWARD HAIGHT, Cedar Lake
 DOUGALL MCKENZIE, Grand Rapids
 ISAIAH BUCK, The Pas, Sask.
 CHARLES HEAD, The Pas, Sask.
 JOSEPH McCAULEY, Red Earth.
 PETER BLOOMFIELD, The Pas, Sask.,

and twenty-five others.

Forty-eight electors of this district petitioned against being included within the boundaries of Manitoba and prayed to be continued in political affiliation with the Province of Saskatchewan.

Could any stronger evidence be submitted? These people on every possible occasion through their representatives protested against being included in Manitoba, but wished to remain with what is now the Province of Saskatchewan, and immediately it was known that they were not included within the Province of Saskatchewan, when the Bill establishing that province was introduced into Parliament, they by petition directly requested to be taken into that province. If the wishes of the people of this territory are to be considered, the territory must be joined to the Province of Saskatchewan. It is confidently submitted that the claim of Saskatchewan to this portion of territory is paramount and beyond dispute. No other province has the slightest claim to it, and to no other province should it be given.

Then again the province of Manitoba was just as anxious, more anxious even, to have the boundary of the province extended westward to take in a portion of the districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan than it was to have it extended northward to Hudson's Bay. In all their memorials to the Government of Canada dealing with the subject of the extension of the boundaries, Manitoba asked, yes, demanded, that the boundaries be extended westward to include the eastern portion of the districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan.

This demand was refused on the ground set out by the Committee of the Privy Council in a report under date of March 21, 1905, in answer to a memorial from the Government of Manitoba praying for an extension westward and northward. The reason given by the committee was as follows:—

'The committee further submit that all information in their hands or available indicates that the people occupying the strip of territory in question may be said to be unanimously and determinedly opposed to being united with the Province of Manitoba.

'The committee do not propose to discuss the reasons for the existence of such sentiment nor whether there are just grounds for its existence or not.

'The committee submit that in corroboration of the view expressed above, a resolution of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, passed on the 20th of May, 1901, may be cited.'

If the opposition of the people of the eastern portions of the districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan when that opposition was voiced only by their representatives, was a good and sufficient reason for not including these portions within the Province

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of Manitoba, the opposition of the people of that part of the old district of Saskatchewan and Athabasca lying north of Manitoba voiced as it is not only by their duly accredited representatives, but directly by their own petition is, it is submitted, more than sufficient reason for excluding the territory from the Province of Manitoba and for including it in the Province of Saskatchewan. In fact to do otherwise, to force the people into a union with the Province of Manitoba after their own declaration that such a course is 'repugnant' to them, would be an Act on the part of the government requiring strong grounds for its justification. Besides, it is maintained that the people occupying this territory have the express promise of the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier that they would not be forced into a union with Manitoba against their wishes. In introducing the Bills to establish the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan Sir Wilfrid used the following language in referring to the demand of Manitoba to have included within her boundaries certain portions of the Northwest Territories:

'But is there a member of this House who would advise us that we should carve out of the territories which for thirty-five years have been under the jurisdiction of their own legislature, which are to-day represented by ten members in this House, any portion of what belongs to them and hand it over to the Province of Manitoba against the consent of the people of these territories? If they agreed to it well and good, I would have nothing to say, but the Legislature of the Territories has more than once declared that they would not under any circumstances consent to any portion of their territory westward of the Province of Manitoba being taken away from them.

'There is another consideration. For my part, I am prepared to give a full hearing to the Province of Manitoba. When that province asks to have her limits extended westward, I am bound to say that we cannot entertain that prayer, for this simple reason, that the Territories, through their Legislature, have passed upon it, and have pronounced against it. But I understand that as to a certain portion of territory north of Lake Winnipegosis and Lake Manitoba, the Northwest Legislature has declared that it has no pronounced views, and that that might be given to the Province of Manitoba. But even this I am not prepared for my part to grant at this moment; because members representing that section to-day sit on the floor of this House, and they and their people have the right to be heard on that question; *and if they do not agree to it I do not think the Parliament of Canada should make the grant against their wishes.*'

Here we have the explicit declaration of the Prime Minister that if the people occupying this very territory do not consent to be united with the Province of Manitoba, the Parliament of Canada ought not to make the grant against their wishes.

We now come to the consideration of that portion of the Northwest Territories which formerly composed the district of Keewatin, and the territory lying between the Province of Ontario and Hudson's Bay. This area extending northward as far as the sixtieth parallel of latitude, contains about 277,000 square miles, and the question is, what distribution of this territory should be made, consideration being had to any special circumstances which would give one or more of the provinces a claim to special treatment.

EACH PROVINCE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO HUDSON'S BAY.

One consideration, it is submitted, should be kept constantly in mind, that is, that each province has a right to have its boundaries extended to Hudson's Bay. This was made perfectly clear by the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his speech to the House of Commons above referred to, introducing the Bills to establish the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. On that occasion he spoke as follows:—

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Manitoba has asked to have her territory extended to the shore of the Hudson's Bay, and this is a prayer which seems to me to be entitled to a fair hearing. But the Province of Manitoba is not the only one whose territory could be extended towards the Hudson's Bay. The Province of Ontario would have the same right; the Province of Quebec would have also that right, and the new *Province of Saskatchewan would have an equal right to have her territory extended to the shore of Hudson's Bay.*

The Committee of the Privy Council of the Dominion appointed to consider the memorial of the Manitoba Government in 1905, expressed the opinion that in so far as Manitoba was concerned the desire of the Province to have her boundaries extended to the shores of Hudson's Bay was not an unreasonable one. The report of the Committee contains the following:—

‘The Committee are likewise of the opinion that the desire of the Province of Manitoba for an extension of its boundaries to the shores of Hudson Bay is not an unreasonable one.’

(See Report of Committee dated March 21, 1905.)

It is maintained, that the desire of the Province of Saskatchewan to have her boundaries extended to the shores of Hudson's Bay is equally reasonable.

The Province of Ontario already has her boundaries extending to and bordering upon that part of Hudson's Bay, commonly called James Bay, and it is submitted that no disposition of the territory in question should be considered that does not recognize the right of both Saskatchewan and Manitoba to have their respective boundaries extended to the shores of Hudson's Bay, so that each province may have direct water communication with the Atlantic Ocean by way of Hudson's Bay and Hudson's Straits.

SASKATCHEWAN SHOULD BE AWARDED THE TERRITORY NORTH OF THE NELSON RIVER.

Recognizing the right of each province to have access to Hudson's Bay and recognizing the paramount claim of Saskatchewan to those portions of the old provisional districts of Saskatchewan and Athabasca lying north of the Province of Manitoba, it is confidently contended that that portion of the Northwest Territories bordering on Hudson's Bay and lying between the Nelson River and the sixtieth parallel of latitude should be awarded to the Province of Saskatchewan.

If this were done a natural boundary line between the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba would be found in the Nelson river.

This territory is tributary to Saskatchewan rather than to Manitoba. The rivers flowing through this territory flow from Saskatchewan. In the very near future, it is expected, that this territory will be connected with the Province of Saskatchewan by a railway, one terminus of which will be in Saskatchewan and the other at Fort Churchill.

The laws in force in this territory are practically the laws of Saskatchewan both having continued in force the laws of the Northwest Territories and the interests, agricultural, commercial and educational of its people are in a great measure common to the people of Saskatchewan.

The people Saskatchewan, especially those engaged in agriculture, have a much greater and more direct interest in the opening of a water transportation route via Hudson's bay to the markets of Europe, than have the people of any other province. The great fertile plains of Saskatchewan are destined in a few years to produce for export as much grain as all the other provinces of the Dominion exporting by that route. When it is remembered that in this present year the Province of Saskatchewan produced thirty million bushels of wheat from, roughly speaking, one and one half

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million acres, and when it is realized that in the province there are fifty millions of acres of good arable land as yet unbroken by the plough, some conception can be formed of the enormous production which, in the near future, will take place in Saskatchewan. Even now the transportation systems are unable to satisfactorily handle the output. Complaints of shortage of cars to move the grain are already heard. Even with the opening up of a new transportation artery via Hudson's bay, the exports from Saskatchewan, will soon overtax the powers of transportation. Manitoba, with her much smaller area of good arable land can never equal in the production of grain the fertile prairies of Saskatchewan, and cannot therefore have as great or as direct an interest in the possession of the seaport at the Churchill as has the Province of Saskatchewan.

The awarding to Saskatchewan of the territory north of the Nelson river does not, it is submitted, interfere with the granting of Manitoba's reasonable request to have her boundaries extended to Hudson's bay. From the mouth of the Nelson river to where the Province of Ontario touches James bay there is a coast line of several hundred miles in length with which Manitoba's desire for an extension to the bay can be gratified.

Further, it is submitted, that there is a vast expanse of territory lying south and east of the Nelson river, being part of the Northwest Territories and containing some 208,000 square miles which is available for the purpose of satisfying Manitoba's demand for increased area, on the ground that her present area is much smaller than that of the other western provinces. If this entire portion were given to Manitoba, that province would contain an area of over 280,000 square miles, a larger area than is possessed by any other province of Canada, except the Province of Quebec and the Province of British Columbia. Even if the Province of Ontario is considered to be entitled to recognition in the distribution of this territory, it is maintained, that there is a sufficient area south and east of the Nelson river to satisfy all legitimate claims for an extension of boundaries both of the Province of Manitoba and the Province of Ontario.

RECAPITULATION.

The above shows:—

1. That those portions of the old districts of Saskatchewan and Athabaska, not included in the Province of Saskatchewan have been for the past twenty years and should continue to be united with the area forming that province.

2. That the Province of Saskatchewan and the Province of Manitoba are both entitled to have their boundaries extended to Hudson's bay.

3. That, granting to the Province of Saskatchewan those portions of the old districts of Saskatchewan and Athabasca, the Nelson river forms a natural boundary, and the only reasonable boundary between that province and the Province of Manitoba.

4. That the territory north of the Nelson river is tributary to the Province of Saskatchewan rather than to the Province of Manitoba, and the interests of its people are more closely allied with Saskatchewan.

5. That the Province of Saskatchewan has a much greater interest in a transportation route via Fort Churchill, and Hudson bay, to the European market than has either the Province of Manitoba or the Province of Ontario.

6. That by awarding the territory north of the Nelson river to Saskatchewan no injustice will be done. There is still over 208,000 square miles of equally good territory with several hundred miles of coast line left, which is amply sufficient to satisfy all reasonable claims both of the Province of Manitoba and the Province of Ontario.

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SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN WITH REFERENCE TO A CLAIM OF THE PROVINCE FOR AN EXTENSION OF BOUNDARIES TO HUDSON'S BAY.

The undersigned representing the Province of Saskatchewan, did not, until the time of the conference held to-day (November 12, 1906), see the statements presented on behalf of the Provinces of Manitoba and Ontario. Having examined the same, they beg leave to submit the following supplementary memorandum:

It is observed that the Government of Ontario recommends the extension of the Province of Manitoba northward so as to take in Fort Churchill by producing the 'eastern boundary of Manitoba northward until it strikes the Churchill river; the middle of the channel of said river should then become the boundary until the river debouches into Hudson's bay; and that the remainder of the territory of Keewatin lying eastward of such boundary line be allotted to Ontario.'

By the statements submitted in behalf of the respective provinces, it is clearly established that Saskatchewan possesses a strong, legitimate, prior claim with respect to a portion of the territory in question; that Manitoba, on account of the smallness of her area, possesses a very strong equitable claim to an increase of territory; and that Ontario can urge neither a similar claim as regards any of the territory in question, nor as regards needs for additional area. In view of these facts and of Ontario's recommendation the undersigned, on behalf of the Province of Saskatchewan, request permission to suggest that in generosity to Manitoba the Province of Saskatchewan will not wish to yield first place to Ontario. They, therefore, following Ontario's example, take the liberty to submit:

1. That in their opinion the boundaries of Manitoba should be extended northward and eastward so as to include all of the present Northwest Territory lying south and east of the Nelson river.

2. That the remainder of the territory lying between the Province of Saskatchewan and Hudson's bay and between the sixtieth parallel of North latitude and the Nelson river, be allotted to the Province of Saskatchewan.

The Government of Manitoba puts forward a claim to the area which was formerly the district of Keewatin on the ground that the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba was connected with the administration of that territory. In reference to this, the undersigned desire to point out that any connection which the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba had with the administration of Keewatin, was not as Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, but in a separate and independent capacity; he being Lieutenant-Governor of both Manitoba and Keewatin. The Government of Manitoba had no jurisdiction whatever over Keewatin.

But the undersigned wish to point out further that if this condition of Manitoba be considered a sound one, the Province of Saskatchewan is entitled, not only to those portions of the old districts of Saskatchewan and Athabasca not included within the province, but also to Fort Churchill and the surrounding territory because Fort Churchill and the territory lying to the east of the easterly boundary of Manitoba produced northerly, is not and never was in the district of Keewatin, but always formed part of the Northwest Territories and was under the direct administration of the Government of the Northwest Territories, whose successor is the Government of Saskatchewan. (See Keewatin Act). To claim Keewatin on the above ground on behalf of Manitoba, is, it is submitted, conceding the claim of Saskatchewan to the territory over which the Government of the Northwest Territories had jurisdiction.

It is noted that the Government of Manitoba bases an argument on the statement that in 1898 the Territorial Legislature by majority (not unanimously) expressed willingness that all the area lying north of Manitoba should be allotted to that pro-

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vince. The undersigned respectfully submit that the Manitoba Government has repeatedly and voluminously by the character of its representations abandoned, and deprived itself of, any right to urge this argument.

In 1901 the Legislature of Manitoba passed a resolution asking for an extension of boundaries westward and northward. Again in the following year (1902) the Legislature reiterated the claims previously made and unanimously passed a resolution which contained the following:—

‘Whereas it is believed that the extension of the boundaries of the province, so as to be and include a portion of the eastern portion of the districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, in the Northwest Territories, and northward to Hudson’s Bay, would largely tend to the material advantage of both Manitoba and of those persons within and that may hereafter become residents of the said proposed extended territory; and

Whereas the Province of Manitoba possesses legislative powers and advantages of an educational, commercial, benevolent, and charitable character not at present possessed or enjoyed by the Northwest Territories:

Therefore let it be resolved:—

1. That the House is of the opinion that it is desirable, both in the interests and for the welfare of the Province of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, that the area of the former should be increased by an extension of boundaries so as to embrace and include a portion of the districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan and northwards to Hudson’s Bay; and

Whereas the House desires to re-affirm the foregoing resolution, believing, as it does, that the early extension of the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba westward and northward to Hudson’s Bay is of the highest importance to the interests of the province and the territory proposed to be added:

Therefore let it be resolved;—

1. That an humble address, setting forth the allegations set forth in the foregoing resolutions, previously adopted by this House, with such other data as the exigency of the case may require, be prepared by such members of this House as comprise the Executive, and presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that His Excellency in Council will be pleased to take such action as shall result in the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba being extended westward and northward to Hudson’s Bay at an early date.’

In subsequent years the Legislature of Manitoba repeated its demands for the inclusion within that province of the eastern portion of the districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan as well as an extension of the boundaries northward to Hudson’s Bay. Even as late as February 23, 1905, Manitoba, through Messrs. Rogers and Campbell, members of the Manitoba Government, protested to Sir Wilfrid Laurier against his decision not to extend the boundaries of Manitoba westward. In a letter addressed by them to Sir Wilfrid the following appears:—

‘In view of Manitoba’s strong claims, we presented to you in the memorial unanimously passed by our Legislature, and supported and supplemented in our interview, we must enter, on behalf of the province, our firm protest against your decision in refusing to grant the prayer of our request for the extension of our boundaries westward, and exceedingly regret that apparently local considerations have deprived Manitoba of what she rightfully regards as a most just claim.’

Since 1884 therefore Manitoba has made two demands on the Dominion Government in reference to the boundary question.

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First: A westward extension of the boundaries of the province so as to include the eastern portion of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, and

Second: An extension northward to the shores of Hudson's Bay.

Attention is called to Manitoba's persistent demand for an extension westward, repeated time and again, reiterated by way of protest as late as February, 1905, and which even finds further expression in the Manitoba Memorandum dated September, 1906, submitted at to-day's conference, and all in the face of and with full and admitted knowledge of the contrary expressed wishes of the people inhabiting the area involved in such proposed westward extension and of the declarations on the subject by the body which the Manitoba Government now terms 'the constituted representative authority of the Northwest Territories.' It is respectfully submitted that this attitude of Manitoba towards a positive declaration of 'constituted representative authority' shuts the door against any argument by Manitoba based upon a merely implied declaration of the same authority. And attention is again drawn to the fact that on no occasion did the elected representatives in the Legislature or in Parliament of the area lying north of Manitoba, fail to strongly voice the wish of the inhabitants thereof to be attached to Saskatchewan and not to be attached to Manitoba.

The undersigned earnestly submit that the development and administration of the area lying north of the Nelson River can be best secured by the Province of Saskatchewan because of its geographical conformation in relation to Saskatchewan, which insures that the proposed railway to connect the prairie wheat lands with Hudson's Bay shall run from a point in the present Province of Saskatchewan to Fort Churchill. That the interest of Saskatchewan in the Hudson's Bay route is paramount cannot but be evident when we consider the respective distances from the centres of Manitoba and Saskatchewan to Hudson's Bay and to the head of Lake Superior. The centre of Manitoba is distant from Fort William approximately 500 miles and from Fort Churchill by the shortest practicable route 750 or 800 miles, while on the other hand the centre of Saskatchewan is distant from Fort William approximately 800 miles and from Fort Churchill only 500 or 550 miles.

The undersigned, in conclusion, submit that notwithstanding the claims and pleas put forward by any province with respect to areas outside of provincial jurisdiction it is the duty of the responsible Dominion authority in allotting such areas to keep first in view the interest and welfare of the actual and prospective inhabitants of the areas themselves, and that by so doing the general interest of the Dominion of Canada will be conserved. They have confidence that if such principle be observed with regard to the area lying north of the Nelson River the same will be restored to association with and allotted to the Province of Saskatchewan.

(Signed)

WALTER SCOTT.

J. H. LAMONT.

OTTAWA, November 12, 1906.

OTTAWA, November 14, 1911.

DEAR MR. SCOTT,—Your letter of the 8th November with enclosures is before me. The considerations which are thus set forth will receive our attention.

If convenient I would be glad to be furnished with some further copies of the printed memorial.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) R. L. BORDEN.

Hon. WALTER SCOTT,
Premier of Saskatchewan,
Regina, Sask.

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SASKATCHEWAN,
REGINA, November 18, 1911.

DEAR MR. BORDEN,—I have yours of November 14 acknowledging receipt of my communication of the 8th instant on the subject of the extension of provincial boundaries and stating that you would be glad to be furnished with some further copies of the printed memorandum. I regret to state that our supply of these is somewhat limited but I am sending you herewith half a dozen copies which I trust may be sufficient to meet your requirements.

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,
(Sgd.) WALTER SCOTT.

Hon. R. L. BORDEN,
Prime Minister,
Ottawa, Ont.

OTTAWA, ONT., November 21, 1911.

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DEAR MR. SCOTT,—Thanks for your letter of the 18th inst. and for the extra copies of the printed memoranda which you have been good enough to send me.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) R. L. BORDEN.

Hon. WALTER SCOTT,
Premier of Saskatchewan,
Regina, Sask.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SASKATCHEWAN.

REGINA, December 30, 1911.

DEAR SIR,—On the 13th ultimo Mr. Scott wrote you on behalf of the Saskatchewan Government requesting that you fix a date for a conference with you in reference to the question of natural resources and certain other questions affecting Saskatchewan. As no answer appears to have been received to Mr. Scott's communication and as our Legislative Assembly is to meet about the third week in January I shall be obliged if you will let me know at your earliest convenience when the conference referred to can be arranged for.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) J. A. CALDER,
Acting Premier.

Hon. R. L. BORDEN,
Prime Minister,
Ottawa, Ont.

OTTAWA, January 6, 1912.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 30th of December is before me. Mr. Scott's letter of the 13th of November was acknowledged immediately after its receipt. The very incessant and imperative demands upon our time in connection with the present ses-

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sion have hitherto rendered it impossible to arrange any date for the proposed conference. I am not sure that any date can be arranged in the immediate future. However, I shall bring the matter to the attention of my colleagues to-day after which I shall write to you again.

Yours faithfully,

R. L. BORDEN.

Hon. J. A. CALDER, M.P.P.,
Acting Premier,
Regina, Sask.

(612)

OTTAWA, ONT., January 9, 1912.

DEAR SIR,—In further reply to your letter of the 30th of December I find after consultation with my colleagues it will be quite impossible to fix any date for a conference before the end of the present session. Owing to the many matters which have pressed upon our attention and the necessity of holding a session almost immediately after we assumed office, we have been obliged to defer by reason of absolute necessity consideration of many matters which are of the highest importance.

Yours faithfully,

R. L. BORDEN.

Hon. J. A. CALDER, M.P.P.,
Acting Premier,
Regina, Sask.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SASKATCHEWAN,
REGINA, January 23, 1912.

DEAR SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant in which you intimate that it will be impossible for you to arrange for the conference asked for by the Government of Saskatchewan until after the close of the present session of Parliament. On behalf of this government it is my duty to convey to you the regret which we feel at your inability to deal with the matter earlier. The resolution passed unanimously by the Saskatchewan Legislature nearly one year ago assumed, as its wording will show, that this question should properly be disposed of simultaneously with the question of the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba, which it is generally understood will be settled by legislation at the present session. Moreover your attention has already been called, since you assumed office, to the claim of this province for an extension of its boundaries to Hudson bay. These facts coupled with the further fact that your own declared policy is to convey to Saskatchewan the natural resources within the province, make it a matter of deep regret to us that action in the premises should be delayed and that consideration of our claims should be postponed until after the Manitoba question has been disposed of.

We still hope that you will find it possible to reconsider this matter and arrange for the necessary conference in order to deal with the whole question of the partition

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of the Northwest Territory and the disposal of the natural resources of the western provinces at the same time.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) J. A. CALDER,
Acting Premier.

The Right Honourable R. L. BORDEN,
Prime Minister,
Ottawa, Ont.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SASKATCHEWAN,
REGINA, January 27, 1912.

DEAR MR. BORDEN,—By letter to you dated November 13 last, Mr. Scott called your attention to several matters concerning which resolutions were adopted by the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan at its last session. One of the matters referred to in Mr. Scott's letter, namely, the question of the control of provincial resources, has since been the subject of correspondence between you and me, but no reply appears to have been received from you as to the other matters mentioned by Mr. Scott. The resolutions referred to deal with the questions of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's exemption from taxation, the control of school lands and the contract between the Dominion Government and the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway and Steamboat Company.

The first two mentioned matters will doubtless require a little time and consideration, but I would respectfully suggest that there does not appear to be any reason why the resolution of the Assembly concerning the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway Company might not be dealt with at once, if action has not already been taken by your government. In the opinion of this government the relief asked for should be granted immediately if at all. Our legislature is now in session and I would like very much to be in a position to inform the Assembly of your decision in the matter at an early date.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) J. A. CALDER,
Acting Premier.

Right Hon. R. L. BORDEN,
Prime Minister,
Ottawa.